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Clinton to visit Ukraine
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Ukraine, Crimea battle once again

Kyiv abolishes Crimean Presidency
Simferopol fires its Prime Minister

Compiled with reports from IntelNews and Unian

The ongoing constitutional conflict between Kyiv and Simferopol has once again erupted as the Ukrainian Parliament suspended Crimea's constitution and abolished its presidency.

The Crimean Parliament, in turn, has dismissed its Prime Minister and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's son-in-law, Anatoliy Franchuk, and claimed its rights were being violated.

By the time this issue had gone to press March 28, the conflict was far from resolution as the Ukrainian Rada reacted with even stronger measures.

The crisis began March 17 when the Verkhovna Rada voted by 247-60 to abolish the Crimean presidency. Parliament also outlawed Crimea's constitution, which had been passed by the Crimean parliament in May 1992.

President Kuchma, who was present at the debate, said he supported the attempt to bring Crimean legislation into line with that of Ukraine. "Both the legislative and executive branches of Ukraine have made initiatives toward the Crimean Parliament, but it did not react to them," Kuchma said.

Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz said Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has outlasted his mandate. "Meshkov was elected under difficult political circumstances. The mood of the Crimean voters has changed since he was elected," said Moroz. "Our Parliament's decisions on bringing Crimean legislation to a level with Ukrainian laws will only help the Crimean parliament."

Crimean Parliament Speaker Sergey Tsekov, who was present at the session, expressed bewilderment at the decision.

"We had just managed to stabilize a difficult situation on the peninsula, and things were moving in the direction of normalization of relations with Ukraine. I have no explanations why the (Ukrainian) Parliament did this," Tsekov said. The Speaker, who has been one of Meshkov's most prominent opponents, added that he felt it is his duty to "defend the presidency in the Republic of Crimea. Yuriy Meshkov is the legitimate Crimean president."

The abolition of the presidency was accompanied by the passage of a new version of the law on Crimean Autonomy, which had been in effect since August 1992. The new law leaves Crimean autonomy largely intact, with the Crimean parliament and council of ministers remaining the supreme legislative and executive bodies on the peninsula. Crimea's right to participate in foreign policy was also not revoked.

However, there was a rebuke aimed at Crimean elections scheduled for April 29. Parliament threw out the election law approved by the Crimean legislature and demanded that the voting be conducted in compliance with current Ukrainian legislation. Also abolished were a series of Crimean government resolutions on creation of a Crimean State Property Fund separate from the State Property Fund of Ukraine.

Crimean deputies walked out of the Rada chamber in protest, and were joined in criticism of the assembly's measure by key members of Moroz's Socialist Party, Natalia Vitrenko and Volodymyr Marchenko. Vitrenko said Moroz yielded to pressure from Kuchma to curtail Crimean autonomy, and that the resolution will lead to escalation of political tensions on the Crimean peninsula and in the whole country.

Russia reacted negatively, saying

Cont. on P. 3

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Ukraine to keep Variah

(IntelNews/Unian)—A joint Ukrainian-Russian committee has resolved that Ukraine will independently decide the fate of the aircraft carrier Variah (pictured above), according to Black Sea Shipbuilding Factory Director General Ihor Ovdienko. Construction of the aircraft carrier was about 70 per cent complete before work was suspended after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Ovdienko hopes that the shipbuilding factory will be permitted to negotiate possible projects for future use of the Variah. The ship could be sold as is or remodeled into a casino, Ovdienko suggested.

Де взяти гроші на українські реформи?

Андерс Ослунд
Фонд Карпати для міжнародного миру

Три роки Україна проводить це дуже успішну економічну політику. Головна проблема полягає в тому, що колишні політичні лідери і їх економічна політика були на руку швидше старій номенклятурній еліті, ніж народу. За умови справжньої свободи цін внутрішньої і зовнішньої торгівлі, фінансової стабілізації Україна може вийти з кризи. І дуже добре, що перші рішучі кроки на шляху побудови ринкової економіки вже зроблено.

Безпросвітність економічного стану країни призвела до того, що багато хто вже й не сподівається на залучення міжнародного фінансування. В інших, навпаки, з'явилися божевільні мрії про те, що Україна могла б отримати міліярди долярів від якоїсь арабської країни, Мальтійського ордена, Папи Римського чи приватної компанії. Але треба пам'ятати про те, що на 1995 рік Україні необхідні США$6 млрд. А для країни, яку не вважають кредито–здатною, такий обсяг коштів можуть мобілізувати лише міжнародні фінансові організації та уряди провідних країн світу.

Міжнародний валютний фонд (МВФ) може надати Україні протягом нинішнього року значну суму — $1,5 млрд., як резервний кредит (stand-by). Якщо ж Україна «загнуздає» обмінний курс своєї валюти. МВФ міг би додатково виділити ще $1,5 млрд. для створення стабілізаційного фонду і поповнення валютних резервів країни. У 1994 р. МВФ уже надав Україні $371 млн., як частину своєї першої позики.

Інша міжнародня фінансова організація — Світовий банк робить кроки слідом за МВФ. У грудні 1994 р. він уклав з Україною угоду про реабілітаційну позику в розмірі $500 млн., з яких $100 млн. уже надійшли в Україну. Цього року Світовий банк міг би надати ще кількасот мільйонів долярів.

Що стосується Европейського банку реконструкції та розвитку (ЕБРР), то його можливости обмежені, але він міг би надати Україні у 1995 р. до $50 млн.

Але найбільші кошти можна отримати шляхом реструктуризації боргу України, Туркменистану і Росії. З Туркменистаном Україна вже досягла домовлености про перегляд порядку сплати боргу в розмірі $711 млн. Росії цього року Україна має сплатити близько $1,3 млрд. Крім цього, життєво важливо, що Росія погодилася пролонгувати боргові зобов'язання України (передусім неплатежі на суму $2,5 млрд.), тобто перенести їх сплату на пізніший термін.

Зрештою, ще одним джерелом є допомога від розвинених країн світу, зокрема, Евро-

Прод. на ст. 2

Україна живе ще без річного бюджету

Але вже з його дефіцитом

Київське Бюро «УВ»

Минулої середи пізно ввечері, після запальних дебатів і перерв для консультацій у фракціях український парлямент прийняв нарешті в першому читанні Державний бюджет на 1995 рік, поданий на затвердження від Кабінету міністрів за підписом Президента.

Таким чином, самого Бюджету держава ще не має: протягом двох тижнів уточнюватиметься структура доходів і видатків, враховуватимуться регіональні інтереси. Порозумітися Верховній Раді, яку розтерзують політичні протистояння, буде вкрай важко, оскільки скорочуються соціяльні програми і фінансування багатьох галузей економіки. Але парлямент уже проголосував за те, що дефіцит Державного бюджету не перевищуватиме 7,3 відсотка.

Цим самим задоволено вимогу Міжнародного валютного фонду заради отримання зарубіжних інвестицій і кредитів.

За кілька днів до розгляду проєкту Бюджету в Києві було підписано Меморандум українського уряду з МВФ. Україна розраховує на річний кредит *Stand-by* у розмірі 1 млрд. 492 млн. долярів та другий транш з кредиту МВФ на системні перетворення (STF) — 373 млн. долярів. Загалом сума коштів становить 125 відсотків української частки в МВФ. Отже, з'явилася довіра в міжнародних колах до реформувань в українській економіці.

Перші кошти можуть надійти в Україну вже наступного місяця. На цей час обіцяє надати допомогу і Світовий банк.

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Міністр запропонував запровадити надзвичайний стан

У зв'язку із посиленням бандитизму з злочинности міністр внутрішніх справ України Володимир Радченко висловився за запровадження надзвичайного стану (комендантського часу з 9–ї години вечора) у Києві, Донецьку, Луганську, Одесі, Львові та в Криму.

Минулого року, вказує міністр, щодня в Україні фіксувалося в середньому півтори тисячі злочинів. Зареєстровано 198 замовних убивств. Почастішали випадки конфіскації зброї, що завозиться в основному з Росії та Молдови. В Україну з'їжджаються нелегальні мігранти (37,2 млн. випадків за минулий рік).

Пропозиція міністрів не мала наслідків. Зрештою, вона не нова — часто говориться, що українці давно вже живуть в умовах надзвичайного стану.

Криза в економіці триває

У січні та лютому нинішнього року в порівнянні з відповідним періодом 1994–го року виробництво валового національного продукту в Україні скоротилося на 12 відсотків.

Оздоровлення народного господарства не спостерігається. Як і раніше, у багатьох галузях триває спад виробництва, загострюється платіжна криза.

Нестабільне і неврегульоване законодавство спричинею кризи і в фінансовій сфері. Цього року вже збанкрутувало 17 банків, які чекають рішень ліквідаційних комісій. 60 банків мають нині статутний фонд, що не перевищує вартості 3–кімнатної квартири.

Де взяти гроші на реформи?

Прод. із ст. 1

пейського союзу, Японії і США на двосторонній основі. Є сподівання, що ці країни можуть надати близько $900 млн. США взяли на себе зобов'язання внести 1/5 частину загального обсягу двосторонньої до-помоги і вже надали Україні гарант на підтримку платіжного балянсу в розмір $72 млн. Правда, лишається відкритим питання з Европейським Союзом, який мав би надати кредит на суму до $400 млн., але ніяк не спроможеться ухвалити остаточне рішення. Щодо Японії, то вона, як правило, теж затягує з ухваленням рішень, але зрештою виділяє значні суми і, очевидно, підтримує приклад Европейського Союзу.

Таким чином, Україна має можливість мобілізувати необхідну фінансову допомогу, хоча не буде виключно важким завданням для її ряду, якому доведеться покласти край марнотратству. Що стосується прямих іноземних інвестицій, то вони, ймовірно, не перевищуватимуть $200 млн., адже інвестори дуже обережні, а щедрих подарунків від невідомих благодійників чекати не варто.

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Утел

Tatars say Ukraine too soft on Crimea

Cont. from P. 1

the move would damage Ukrainian-Russian relations.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly emphasized that the problems between Kyiv and Simferopol are Ukraine's internal problem. However, the aggravation of tensions may have a negative effect on relations between Ukraine and Russia," said Vsevolod Loskutov, a Russian Foreign Ministry official.

"One of the basic principles of international relations stated in the Helsinki Final Document says that it is necessary to take into account the people's will, and, in this specific case, it is Yuriy Meshkov's election as Crimean president," said Loskutov.

March 18 the Crimean parliament voted by 51-27 at a special session to announce its "readiness" to lift a 1992 moratorium on an independence referendum, and asked Ukraine, Russia and the world community to act as guarantors of the vote.

"The approved decisions (by the Ukrainian Parliament) are a violation of the fundamental rights and democratic principles accepted by the entire civilized world," read the Crimean statement. "The Crimean Parliament ... will never accept the revocation of the Constitution."

The statement also called on Russia to pressure Ukraine by refusing to sign a friendship and cooperation treaty with Kyiv "until the interests of the Crimean people are taken into consideration." The treaty is a de facto recognition of Ukraine's borders and independence by Russia.

Crimean deputies passed the hardline resolution despite reassurances from a representative of President Leonid Kuchma that Ukraine's new laws on Crimean autonomy "do not threaten Crimea's sovereignty."

Kuchma envoy Valeriy Horbatov was dispatched to Simferopol to reassure local officials. He promised deputies the Ukrainian Presidential Representative Office in Crimea, when established, will not infringe on the powers of the Crimean parliament or council of ministers. "The President's office in Crimea will perform diplomatic functions only," Horbatov said.

News stories citing Russian ITAR-TASS agency dispatches reported that the Crimean parliament building had been surrounded by Ukrainian special purpose police units. Deputy Interior Minister Valeriy Chernyshov, who arrived in Simferopol the previous day for a "planned visit requested by the Crimean Department of Internal Affairs," denied the reports.

That same day the consular group of the Russian Embassy arrived in Simferopol to help settle Crimeans obtaining Russian citizenship.

Russian Embassy Consular Department Chief Myhkail Hlushkov said the visit was coordinated with the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry. The Russian and Ukrainian sides discussed the procedure of accepting Russian citizenship.

According to his estimates, 300,000 to 500,000 Crimean residents want Russian citizenship and Russia "is ready to start working on giving the opportunity to these citizens to file for their passports."

Hlushkov did not clarify whether the acceptance of Russian citizenship would nullify a person's Ukrainian citizenship. He also did not divulge the official number of Crimean residents who applied for Russian citizenship.

In an interview with Russkaya Mysl, a Simferopol-based newspaper, Abdulakhim Mikitaev, who heads Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Committee on Citizenship Matters, said the "provision demanding the surrender of citizenship of other countries was excluded from the Russian Citizenship Law. This maneuver by Russian lawmakers to give double citizenship does not exist de jure, but exists de facto."

Ukrainian law excludes the right to double citizenship. According to the Ukrainian Law On Citizenship, if a Ukrainian citizen did not officially renounce his or her citizenship by Nov. 13, 1991, he or she is considered a Ukrainian citizen."

The next day members of Crimean Parliament's leading factions proposed an international hearing.

Meanwhile, Meshkov, who remained barricaded in the Parliament building in Simferopol with five armed bodyguards, appealed for help from the leaders of the Kuban and Don Cossacks. They refused.

Tsekov said the decisions reached by Ukraine's Parliament infringe upon Crimea's status as an autonomous republic. "This may cause very serious consequences, taking into account Crimean residents' attitude to these decisions," Tsekov said.

"Certain political forces are trying to prevent signing of a Ukrainian- Russian [friendship and cooperation] treaty," he said in a television address to Crimean residents.

Tsekov said he is sure that Ukrainian Parliament's recent decisions will be denounced by the world community.

"Although it may seem to be the country's internal affair, nobody in the whole world will support such steps. I believe that Ukraine may have some purely economic problems (arising from these decisions)," Tsekov said.

He also defended the decision made by the Crimean Parliament to come out in favor of a referendum on independence for the peninsula — a move long viewed as unacceptable in Kyiv — calling it "a thoughtful and serious decision."

"It has not yet been decided to organize a referendum," he explained. "We only issued a statement on this issue."

Volodymyr Kolodkin, a representative of the Rossiya faction in Crimean Parliament, proposed to appeal to international organizations, including the United Nations and initiate a discussion at the international level concerning Crimea's political situation.

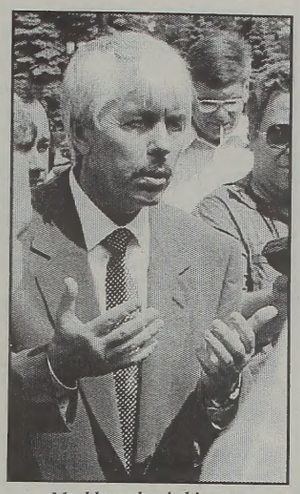
Fiedor Snegiriev, Agrarian and Communist faction leader, said: "Ukrainian Parliament exceeded its powers when it nullified the Crimean constitution and presidency."

Positions of the Reform faction members were not unanimous. While Anatoliy Gritsenko said that "the current situation reveals the bankruptcy of Crimean political leaders," and demanded the Tsekov's resignation, other representatives of this faction were critical of the Ukrainian Parliament.

The lone Crimean political wing of Crimean Parliament that came out completely on the side of Kyiv were the Tatars — a group native to Crimea that was deported by dictator Joseph Stalin to central Asia 50 years ago. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, they have returned to their homeland in great numbers.

Nadir Bakirov, speaking on behalf of the Tatar Kurultay faction, said "the action taken by the Ukrainian Parliament is not only well-grounded from the legal point of view, it is even too soft, if we consider the policies of the Crimean President and Parliament."

"We must submit to the Ukrainian Parliament's resolution of March 17 as political and legal reality and continue to work normally, bringing in line our position with that of Ukraine in accordance with enacted Ukrainian legislation," he added.



Meshkov pleads his case

Meanwhile, Civil Congress of Ukraine party leaders issued a statement criticizing Parliament's resolutions.

"In response to these resolutions, Crimea will conduct a referendum on its independent status, which may result in aggravation of relations between Ukraine and Russia," read the statement.

The party leaders appealed to authorities to avoid using force in the conflict. The Civil Congress of Ukraine believes the Crimean problem has only one solution — the reunification of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan in a single economic, political and military union.

March 20 Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said that Ukraine's current problems in Crimea would have no effect on negotiations between the two countries.

At a Simferopol press conference that same day, Meshkov said the actions will hurt Ukraine more than Crimea,

"I was elected as Crimean President by the people of Crimea, and none of the state power bodies' decisions can change this situation," he said.

"The decisions concerning Crimea mean a transition from decisions based on law to decisions based on the principle of brutal force," he said. "The same soon will be applied to relations between the Ukrainian President and Parliament. In this case, the decisions on Crimea will play a pernicious role because Ukraine has plunged itself into an unpredictable future."

He said the strongest forces will take the upper hand in the matter. Force will be the ruling factor, not legitimacy, Meshkov added.

"He who will manage to establish control over the law enforcement bodies and who will directly command the armed forces will impose his political will," Meshkov said.

"Today, Ukraine has two options. It can either be governed by the law or by force. Force is a variable concept. And even the very heavy pressure produced by Germany that we experienced in Europe's history from 1933 to 1945 did not give the desired result and did not destroy our civilization. So, I do not think that Ukraine with its ruined economy and lack of a stable political system will resort to usage of force in the country or abroad."

In Kyiv, Moroz said Ukraine plans to ensure practical implementation of Parliament's decision to abolish the Crimean presidency by withholding state funding from the institution.

He also minimized the political fallout of the decision, citing the unpopularity of Meshkov and predicting that the Crimean people would support his ouster.

"We used the data of former sociological opinion polls in which the rating of Crimean authorities is very low. Today the majority of the population as well as local authorities are agreed with the recent decision of the Ukrainian Parliament and consider it belated," Moroz said.

"Meshkov is not Crimea, only Meshkov," he added.

The Speaker also said that the creation of a Crimean presidency was a mistake made by authorities both in Kyiv and Simferopol — a mistake that Ukrainian Parliament would have rectified earlier had it first not desired to exhaust all efforts at compromise and negotiations.

"Ukrainian Parliament did everything possible to allow Crimean authorities to create constitutional order by themselves," Moroz said.

"We cannot be accused of disrespect to the Crimean authorities."

Rukh Leader Viacheslav Chornovil said that changes need to take place in Crimea before the Crimean Parliament goes under, too.

"If Crimea keeps following its current course, it will eventually

Cont. on P. 5

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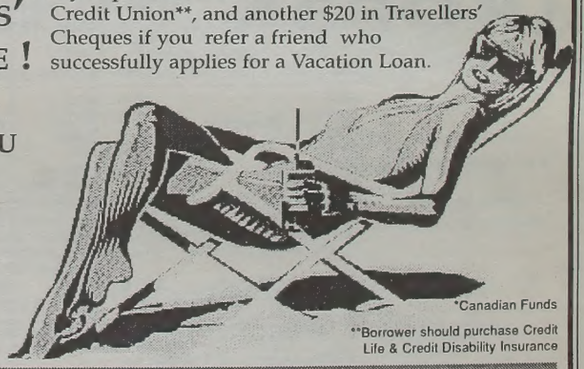

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Rada approves budget draft

(IntelNews)—The Ukrainian Parliament gave preliminary approval March 22 to the 1995 state budget submitted by President Leonid Kuchma. It passed 232 to 91.

According to the resolution, the budget deficit, which includes both state and local budgets, is fixed at 7.3 per cent.

Parliament also ordered the Cabinet of Ministries and Budget Parliamentary Committee to summarize all proposals to the draft budget and to submit the final version of the state budget to Parliament in two weeks.

The budget committee decided to increase financing of border defense forces from KBV 9.5 trillion to KBV 10 trillion. The budget committee also proposed to decrease financing of the legislature from KBV 3 trillion to KBV 2.8 trillion.

But various factions in Parliament say the draft budget will need substantial work to be passed. Communist faction leader Petro Symonenko said he is not happy the new budget allocates individual farmers KBV 600 billion — more than the collective farmers' KBV 100 billion slice of the budget. Communists push for increasing collective farmers subsidies, saying they "provide food for the entire country."

On the other hand, Republican Party leader Levko Lukianenko criticizes the budget for offering insufficient social support. Even reformers, such as Oleksandr Yeliashkevich of the Reforms faction, identified the draft budget as an "anti-market, fiscal document that increases the tax burden for producers and leads to a huge centralization of budgetary funds."

Karbovanets recovers after budget approval

By Oleh Borsuk, *Intel News*

The karbovanets recovered as Parliament approved the 1995 budget draft, opening the way for international credits to help Ukraine's economy.

National money markets reacted favorably to the preliminary budget approval, pushing the karbovanets to close stronger against major foreign currencies officially traded in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange, the country's official currency market closed March 24 at KBV130,000/USD, with the karbovanets gaining nearly 5.2 per cent during the week. March 23 the UICE closed at KBV 134,000/USD.

The karbovanets gained more than 5.5 per cent against the German mark, and more than 13.9 per cent against the Russian ruble during the week, with the latest UICE close at KBV 94,000/DM and KBV 26/RBL, respectively. At the UICE, the mark yielded a cross-exchange rate between the US dollar and the German currency of DM 1.383/USD, up from DM 1.377/USD the week before.

Ukraine's currency also did well on the cash market during the last week, with the karbovanets gaining nearly one per cent for buys and 0.63 per cent for sells on the streets of Kyiv, hitting KBV 153,500/USD and KBV 157,500/USD, respectively. The slight gain follows this year's worst KBV plunge on the cash market, when the karbovanets lost nearly 8 per cent of its value in seven days.

Currency brokers' optimism concerning the karbovanets is fueled by massive international credits which Ukraine may soon receive to bail out its currency and economy. Ukraine moved closer to getting a US$1.5 billion standby credit and a $373 million systemic transformation facility (STF) loan from the International Monetary Fund after Parliament voted in favor of President Leonid Kuchma's 1995 draft budget.

The budget deficit, a major issue for IMF funding, is set at 7.3 per cent, according to the draft, which meets IMF demands and should lift barriers to allocating new credits to Ukraine. Although the IMF has tentatively approved the credits, formal approval is expected later this month.

The National Bank of Ukraine used the first part of the STF, received by Ukraine late last year, for currency interventions at the UICE to bail out the karbovanets. The loan was worth $371 million.

According to NBU Governor Viktor Yushchenko, the NBU sold $58 million and bought some $43.3 million through currency interventions at the UICE since the year's start.

Another factor helping the local currency was the need of domestic commercial banks and companies to clear their quarter-end financial obligations, including tax payments, contracts settlements and salaries. These debts boosted the demand for local cash. Hunting for karbovantsi, local businesses sold some of their hard currency reserves, increasing the currency exchange's foreign money supply.

The US dollar supply exceeded demand by more than $7 million during UICE's March 24 trade session, reaching $17.88 million. The demand was $10.58 million.

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На українсько–російських переговорах в Києві 21–го березня, виконуючий обов'язки прем'єр–міністра України Євген Марчук і перший віце–прем'єр Росії Олег Сосковець, домовилися про погашення Україною боргів у розмірі 1,14 млрд. амер. долярів протягом 10 років. Йдеться про затримані з минулого року платежі в рахунок погашення державних кредитів і процентів на них, а також про платежі вже нинішнього року. Щоправда, 50 млн. долярів з цієї суми Україна зобов'язалася сплатити негайно, але потім протягом трьох років від неї вимагатиметься погашення лише процентів по заборгованості. Власні борги необхідно буде відшкодувати протягом 1998–2008 років.

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Харківські фахівці розробили новий міні–літак «ХАІ–70» на чотирьох осіб, що матиме широкий спектр застосування — у підприємницькій діяльності, для подорожувань, відпочинку тощо.

Українські авіяконструктори мають світове визнання, але досі за кордоном більше були відомі потужні транспортні лікати. Літак нової кляси має сподобатися тим, що він має надійну систему захисту (це найвразливіше місце міні–літаків). Однак ще треба знайти кошти для його серійного випуску.

Львів'яни вимагають компенсації

Жителі сіл Зимна вода, Конопиця, Лапаївка на Львівщині провели збори з вимогами компенсувати їм збитки заподіяні військовиками в наслідок експлуатації Яворівського полігону.

Ще до Другої світової війни, а потім з 1944 по 1973 роки на площі 10 тисяч гектарів цей полігон облаштовували для навчань військ Варшавського бльоку. Землю занепащено. Свого часу відселеним жителям з чотирьох районів Львівщини не відшкодовували завданих збитків. Проблему вивчають комісії, утворені за розпорядженням Кабінету міністрів, але ніяких рішень ще не прийнято.

Moroz denies Bozhenar charges

Compiled with reports from IntelNews, Unian and the Ukrainian News Kyiv Bureau,

Parliamentary Speaker Oleksandr Moroz is denying allegations by Parliament's Organized Crime and Corruption Committee that he diverted foreign credits for his personal use.

Moroz's key adviser, Viktor Bozhenar, was arrested on embezzlement charges March 6 as he left Parliament. The General Prosecutor's Office officially sanctioned the arrest March 9. Bozhenar is being held in Kyiv's Lukianivska prison.

According to information obtained by the Ukrainian News Kyiv Bureau from the parliamentary Corruption and Organized Crime Committee prior to his arrest, Bozhenar was key in allocating a KBV10 billion credit for medical treatment of a man named "Smirnov," otherwise unidentified, who afterwards left Ukraine.

In a letter dated June 4, 1994 and signed by Moroz himself, the first vice president of the bank in Okhtyrky, Sumy oblast was informed that a 30 billion KBV credit would be allocated to the bank on condition that 10 billion KBV of this sum would be transfered to Smirnov's account in order that he may undergo an eye operation in California.

A copy of the letter was printed in the Feb. 15 edition of Ukrainian News along with a Ukrainian-language story on the scandal.

Moroz said he has no reason not to trust his counselor and denied personal involvement in the scandal.

"All talks about my having signed the documents are nothing but nonsense because such documents are not in my jurisdiction. I gave just three signatures on letters to the General Prosecutor's Office, Security Service and Internal Ministry last September as a legal endorsement to use and control the credit," he said.

In an interview with IntelNews Moroz added that he believes some political forces are trying to crush Parliament.

"All who are fussing about this story, are just executioners. But I have an impression that nobody cares about the program, and nobody cares about the credit. The campaign was launched against Bozhenar. The target of the campaign is the Speaker and through the Speaker — Parliament.

Mykhailo Ratushniy, a member of corruption committee, told IntelNews Smirnov is now in Ukraine.

Ratushniy also said he knew that the KBV10 billion may have been spent on the Socialist Party election campaign. "There was an idea to elect more deputies and augment the Socialist faction of Parliament," he said.

At the same time, according to the crime committee, another credit of KBV80 billion was allocated by resolution of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) to the engineering centre "Trud," created by decree of former President Leonid Kravchuk in July 1993. Bozhenar was a head of Trud. He and Moroz have managed the centre's program, which is aimed at stabilizing Ukraine's agriculture sector.

The NBU has allocated 80 KBVbillion for Trud through a commercial bank in Odesa. "Moroz personally called the Deputy NBU Governor in order to ask him to allocate the credit for Trud," Ratushiy said. After the arrest, he added, many documents were found in Bozhenar's safe. General Prosecutor's Office officials are studying these documents now.

When the issue of Bozhenar's arrest arose during the March 14 parliamentary session, Speaker Moroz said Bozhenar was arrested according to his order, given to Ukrainian Prosecutor's Office in September 1994. Earlier, Moroz was quoted as saying he was not told about the arrest until the following morning.

Presidents Leonid Kuchma and Bill Clinton sign documents during Kuchma's visit to Washington in November, 1994

Clinton to visit Ukraine

(IntelNews)—U.S. President Bill Clinton will visit Ukraine May 10, the Foreign Ministry announced March 21. Clinton will come to Kyiv after he visits Russia on May 9 to take part in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the end of the World War II in Europe, said ministry spokesman Yuriy Serheev.Clinton confirmed the visit in a "warm letter" delivered to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma by American Ambassador William Miller, Serheev said. In the letter, Clinton emphasized that the United States will support the Kuchma administration reforms.

New deputy foreign minister

(IntelNews/Unian)—President Leonid Kuchma has appointed Kostiantyn Hryshchenko, 41, as Deputy Foreign Minister. Hryshchenko previously worked as Foreign Ministry arms control and disarmament department chief.

In 1975, Hryshchenko, who speaks English and French, graduated with top honors from the Moscow-based Institute of International Relations. Until 1992, he worked at the former Soviet Union's Foreign Ministry at the U.N. Secretariat in New York and at the USSR Consulate General in Montreal. In February 1992 Hryshchenko joined the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

Meshkov appeals to world bodies

Cont. from P. 3

lead to the disbanding of the Crimean Parliament," he said.

Based on his meetings with Crimeans during his recent visit to the peninsula, Chornovil said he concluded that no one will rise to defend either Meshkov or Tsekov.

"If there is no external interference by Russia, we will cope with the Crimean problem ourselves," he said. "The major threat is a threat of outside intervention."

March 22 the Crimean Parliament voted non-confidence in Franchuk and Deputy Prime Minister Andriy Senchenko. Also, the entire cabinet submitted its resignation.

Parliament approved Anatoliy Drobotov, a 44 year-old ethnic Russian, as Prime Minister.

Drobotov, who served as Agriculture Minister in the outgoing government and had submitted his resignation along with the rest of the cabinet, asked all outgoing members of the government to continue doing their jobs until replacements are approved.

He called for a policy of "reconciliation and wisdom," without which the government would "cause the people to suffer."

March 22 Meshkov, issued a statement which he addressed to United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to the General Secretary of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the International Confederation of Journalists and to democratic organizations throughout the world.

In the statement, Meshkov said that the actions of the Ukrainian Parliament violated international law. He also questioned the legitimacy of Crimea as part of independent Ukraine, saying that Crimea should have voted on its own status in the December 1991 referendum in which a majority of Crimeans voted — along with the rest of the country — for Ukrainian independence.

Ukraine's parliament reacted to Franchuk's dismissal by voting overwhelmingly March 24 to hold local elections in the peninsula in June. The Rada specifically barred foreign citizens from voting or running for office — a provision aimed at residents taking out Russian citizenship, reported Reuters.

Deputies also overturned a Crimean law under which the region's conscripts were entitled to perform military service locally. But proposals by nationalists to rescind a law on Crimea's government, effectively making local officials responsible to Kyiv, failed to win the required number of votes.

Death threats, bombings preceded crisis

By Lillia Budjorova, *IntelNews*

Prior to the Ukrainian Supreme Council's suspension of the Crimean constitution, death threats against former Crimean Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk, coupled with a March 12 bombing outside the apartment of a former Crimean deputy prime minister, already started fueling fears of a new chapter in Crimea's growing political violence.

Franchuk said that an anonymous caller told him that "we will eliminate you if you continue behaving so zealously in the government." Franchuk said the caller indicated that he knew the former prime minister's route to work in Simferopol, and that he twice used a special line that is installed only in senior official offices.

The bomb, which killed an unidentified man apparently carrying the device, occurred in the early morning hours near former Deputy Prime Minister Arkadiy Demidenko's apartment block in Simferopol. No serious damage to the building was reported.

Demidenko, who was responsible for managing the state sector of the Crimean economy, denied hat there could be motives for anyone to threaten his life on grounds of "commercial" interests. Franchuk said he could be a target of assassination because of the Crimean government's "tough stance" on fighting organized crime.

Demidenko suggested that some forces, including those close to former Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, might be interested in deepening political destabilization on the peninsula. He said Meshkov was trying to restore the government headed by Russian economist Yevgeniy Saburov.

Demidenko, who headed the Crimean Anti-Corruption Council, said Meshkov may have resented remarks he made at a recent Council meeting charging the president with fueling the strife between the branches of power to the benefit of criminals.

The deputy prime minister also said the bombing could be aimed to discredit him as a member of the government in the eyes of the public, which usually associates accidents of this sort with mafia and corruption.

The Ukrainian Security Service Department in Crimea refused to comment on the bombing, saying only that a decision was made to take steps ensuring greater personal safety for the deputy prime minister.

At least six political figures, including a member of the Crimean Parliament, the Crimean Tatar communist leader, and two political party chairs, have been murdered on the peninsula in the past 18 months.

Crimeans seek Russian citizenship

(IntelNews/Unian)—According to unofficial information, 40 to 80 ethnic Russians in the Crimean city of Simferopol seek Russian citizenship daily at the Russian Consulate. In the course of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, Ukraine has been opposed to offering dual citizenship.

"This action is not quite legal as there is no agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation about dual citizenship," said members of the Ukraine Foreign Affairs Ministry.

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Hon. Kyiv Bureau Chief: Vitaliy Shevchenko
Ukr. Language Corrector: Rena Hanchuk
Typesetting & Layout: Irena Hladki
Advertising & Circulation: Alexandra Cybulsky

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Редактор: Марко Левицький
Поч. Гол. Київського Бюра: Віталій Шевченко
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Мистецька підготовка: Ірена Гладкі
Оголошення і розповсюд.: Оля Цибульська

Українські Вісті видає місячно *Едмонтон Лайзергрефікс, Відділ Кенейдієн Криптикс Лтд.* під контрактом із видавцями *Українські Вісті Лтд.* Річна передплата $30.00. Всі права застережені. Не можна репродукувати ніяких матеріялів без писаного дозволу видавця. Опінії висловлені в статтях не все відповідають опінії власника, видавця чи редакційної ради.

Офіційний Київ наважився дати відсіч кримському сепаратизму

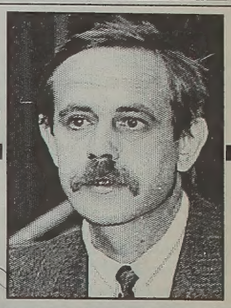
У Криму — переполох.

Верховна Ради України, відклавши на тиждень–другий початок грандіозних битв за перерозподіл влади в уряді та керівництві парляменту, несподівано й для зарубіжжя, і для самої України взялася за Крим і без попередніх підготовок, протягом одного дня скасувала цілу низку законодавчих актів Автономної Республіки Крим. Конституція Криму вже більше не існує, як не існує й посада кримського президента.

Рішення були настільки несподіваними, що сам Крим оговтався лише через кілька днів. Масових обурень не було, кримчани сприйняли «сваволю» Києва досить спокійно. Офіційний Сімферополь спромігся лише на гнівні заяви та на відставку свого прем'єра А. Франчука — свата Президента України Л. Кучми. На знак протесту проти усунення Франчука подав у відставку весь уряд Криму. Обурюватися було чим: прем'єра автономної республіки зняли з посади, коли він перебував у лікарні, а на його місце призначили представника комуністів без досвіду керівної роботи (ще кілька місяців тому він працював головою колгоспу). Діяли за принципом: хай буде гірше, аби наперекір Києву.

Рішучі рішення Верховної Ради, до яких вона вдалася вперше з часу виникнення «кримської проблеми», знову об'єднали тамтешніх керівників під проросійськими гаслами. Відставка А. Франчука стала демонстрацією амбіцій. Знову посипалися з Криму звернення до Державної Думи Росії. В офіційній довідці для російських парляментарів, підписаній 20 березня головою комітету федеральних зборів Російської Федерації у справах співдружности незалежних держав і зв'язків із співвітчизниками К. Затуліним, говориться: «Протягом багатьох місяців проводилася політика насаджування українських структур, ліквідація кримських або перепідпорядкування їх Києву... Прем'єр–міністр А. Франчук при повній підтримці київських властей зайнявся консолідацією проукраїнського лоббі серед виконавчих структур Республіки Крим». Росія назвала позиції А. Франчука «проукраїнськими», сама того не усвідомлюючи, що цей закид сприймається комічно — адже йдеться про Україну...

Переді мною щойно отримане по факсу рішення вже названого комітету Держдуми Росії: «Вважати місто Севастополь в адміністративно–територіяльних кордонах міського округу станом на грудень 1991 р. головною базою Російської Фльоти», «Доручити МЗС Росії відкриття постійного Консульства в м. Севастополі для розв'язання питань захисту прав російських громадян і оформлення громадянства Росії», «Забезпечити державний статус російської мови на території м. Севастополя». Шовінізм? Так, густо замішаний на більшовизмі. А ось витяг із заяви цього ж комітету про рішення українського парляменту: «Сталася нетерпима, надзвичайна подія, яка змушує переоцінити не лише теперішнє і минуле, але й майбутнє російсько–українських відносин». Далі йдуть натяки на економічні санкції щодо України, заклики піддати ревізії українсько–російську широкомасштабну угоду, яку цими днями мали підписувати.



Віталій Шевченко

народний депутат України

Зрозуміло, візит Б. Єльцина до Києва, призначений на кінець березня, навряд чи відбудеться, позаяк загострення «кримської проблеми» цим не вичерпається.

Цю інформацію я передаю відразу після завершення чергового тижня пленарної роботи Верховної Ради України, під кінець якого було скасовано ще ряд документів кримського парляменту і відмінено вибори в Криму до місцевих рад: влада має формуватися за українськими законами. Але піднесли сюрприз комуністи. Їх єднання з демократами в кримських питаннях різко обірвалося, як тільки дійшла справа до визнання незаконним усунення з посади А. Франчука. Комуністи почали виходити із залі, тим самим засвідчивши, що власні партійні інтереси (замість свата Кучми хай буде комуніст) вони ставлять вище за інтереси держави.

Ось так під знаком «кримської війни» і минув ще один тиждень парляментського життя. Не сталося ні звіту уряду, ні звіту Президії ВР, ні доповіді Президента, від яких залежатиме перерозподіл керівних місць і розвиток політичних подій.

Щоправда, у цьому вичікуванні з'явилися нові ньюанси: Олександр Мороз з усіх сил відкладає звіт керівництва Верховної Ради, а тим часом нав'язує звіт Генерального прокурора Я. Дацюка, щоб домогтися відставки всієї колегії Генеральної прокуратури за відкриття кримінальних справ супроти керівників парляменту і людей з їх оточення. Олександр Мороз відчайдушно намагається врятувати свою репутацію, а водночас і престиж «лівих» сил, на яких він спирається.

Tatar, Ukrainian futures linked

A recent editorial in which we stated that Crimea legitimately belongs to the Tatars sparked some sharp reactions. Though the volume of mail was not much, some of the emotions and historical misconceptions nevertheless surprised us.

First, let us clear up the misconception that Crimea, or even the Black Sea coast, are historic regions of Ukraine and had been so even during the era of Kyivan Rus. Except for the brief existence in the eleventh century of the principality of Tmutortorkan, which was actually located in Kuban, but did control part of the Kerch peninsula and another brief period, during which the influence of the Halych-Volyn principality/kingdom extended southwards along the Dnister, there was no other Ukrainian presence in either Crimea, nor on the Black Sea coast throughout the history of Kyivan Rus. There had been Greek settlements all along the coast since 700 B.C. Inland, the steppes were periodically overrun by various nomadic people who either disappeared from history (Scythes, Sarmatians, Huns, Avars, Khazars, Pechenihs, Polovtsi), or passed along the way to establishing other settlements (Goths, Magyars, Bulgars). The Tatars, who came in 1240, were the first to settle the region permanently and establish their own state — first the Golden Horde, then the Crimean Khanate. Throughout the years of Kozak Ukraine, the Tatars were firmly entrenched in Crimea. It was only when Russia annexed the territory in 1783 that Ukrainian settlement moved southward, as Russian landowners transported their Ukrainian serf labor to exploit the new lands.

At the same time, tsarist Russia began a systematic policy of removing the Tatars from their lands and populating the peninsula with Russians. This policy reached its zenith with Stalin's "final solution" of 1944 when he deported what was left of the Tatar population en masse.

Perhaps we should clarify what we mean when we say Crimea "legitimately" belongs to the Tatars. Under international law, Crimea "legitimately" belongs to Ukraine. That's because international law is based upon the inviolability of recognized borders. But we are also using the term "legitimately" to mean a recognition of the basic human rights of any people for self-determination within their homeland. It was this principle that provided "legitimacy" for the cause of Ukrainian statehood in the centuries before that statehood became recognized in international law. It is that same principle that allows for the "legitimacy" of the Tatars to exercise their right to self determination.

What truly amazes us is that some people would still hold a grudge against the Tatars, due to events that took place over 300 years ago. Today, when Ukraine has finally won its independence, it is imperative that the young state allow the same rights to other historically oppressed people that Ukrainians themselves strove to achieve for years.

There is no other group of people in Crimea (ethnic Ukrainians included) who are more loyal to Ukrainian statehood than are the Crimean Tatars. And this can be attributed most to the humanitarian treatment accorded them by the Ukrainian government, in stark contrast to what they have suffered from Moscow in the past and Simferopol in the present. Ukrainians and Tatars may have been enemies in 1595, but in 1995 their common destinies are firmly linked with each other.

Pro-Tatar editorial criticized

Letters to the Editor

Your editorial statement in the Feb. 1-14 issue of Ukrainian News carries the statement "Crimea legitimately belongs neither to Russia nor Ukraine. It belongs to the Tatars." Having made the statement you do not bring forth any evidence for this "legitimacy" nor do you define legitimacy.

In my opinion, such statements are provocative and ultimately non-productive. We would advise the editorial writer to review the history of the area from its earliest historical times to the present.

The Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. V, pg. 171-173 carries some pertinent, albeit limited, information on the Tatars. According to this information, the Tatars were a foreign people who invaded Ukraine and proceeded to enforce their cruel and unwelcome presence in Ukraine for several hundred years. Historical records show that the Tatars were responsible for the active slave trade of thousands of Ukrainian men, women and children. We should remember this before we rush to their defense.

The northern Black sea coast has always been an integral part of the Ukrainian country, being a center of trade for thousands of years. Temporary foreign occupation in no way denies the historical native Ukrainian presence and right to the land.

The Ukrainians fought the Tatars for hundreds of years. Eventually in the 1770's AD when the Ukrainians had weakened the Tatars, the Muscovites (Russians) came in and helped eliminate their brigandage and destroyed their power. The Russians, then being stronger, took over control of the region. By your reasoning all of Ukraine should now logically be considered a part of the Russian state.

I doubt if the Editor would find any support from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and other countries who suffered from the same fate, that their countries were rightfully and historically Tatar or Russian!

Foreigners, who after living in Ukraine for hundreds of years, and do not consider themselves Ukrainians, should leave and go back to their country of origin. They should not attempt to destroy Ukraine by carving it up into Tatar, Greek, Jewish, German or Russian lands.

Just as the human body cannot be healthy with the presence of a cancerous virus, no country can be healthy with a destructive political, racial or religious foreign body putting its interests ahead of the aspirations of their host country.

Sincerely,
R.P. Samoil, Edmonton

Ed. Note: Ukrainian News also received another letter on this subject, which, more or less, made the same arguments.

Military complex cooperation urged

(IntelNews/Unian)—Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov and Russian First Deputy Defense Minister Andriy Kokoshyn say they favor "normal and reasonable cooperation" between military-industrial complexes of the two countries, reports the Cabinet of Ministers press service.

Shmarov leads the Ukrainian government delegation at the arms exhibition Idex '95, which began in the United Arab Emirates March 19.

The Ukrainian exposition is represented by 42 Ukrainian enterprises and organizations. Ukraine is one of six countries with military ships on display at the exhibition.

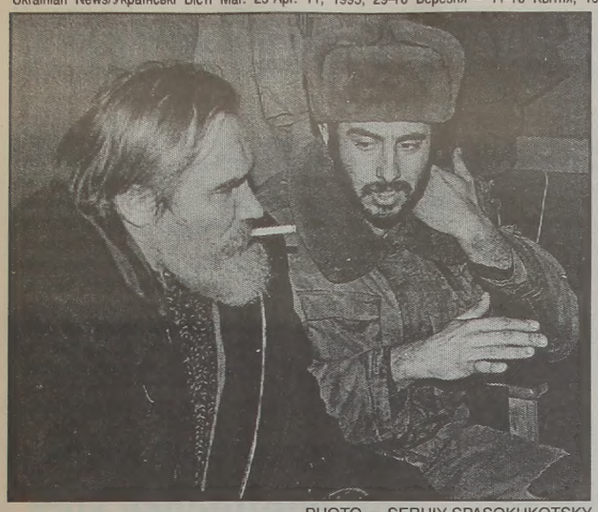


PHOTO — SERHIY SPASOKUKOTSKY

UNA's political council head, Anatoliy Lupynis (left), earlier travelled to Chechnya on a factfinding tour and to help to arrange for the repatriation of prisoners from the Russian army who are of Ukrainian origin. One such POW was Capt. Oleksandr Oliferenko (right), who is originally from Kharkiv. He now lives in Ukraine.

Ukrainians aid Chechen refugees

(IntelNews)—Immigrants to Ukraine from Russia's Chechen Republic met Ukrainian sympathizers at the Congress of Ukrainian-Chechen Friendship in Kyiv on March 18.

At the meeting, Chechen representative Ruslan Badaev claimed Russian President Boris Yeltsin confessed to a Russian general, "When I was a student I was beaten up by a Chechen and since then I have been looking for revenge."

Badaev responded, "We beat you when you were young and we will beat you when you are the President."

Badaev said some 25,000 people, mostly civilians, were killed and 300,000 became refugees since the start of the Chechen war. At least 300 Chechen refugees settled in Ukraine, according to the Ukraine-Chechen Friendship organization. Funds to aid the refugees were established in Lviv, Donetsk and Odesa.

Aid for Chechnya stuck in Kyiv warehouse

(Hariacha Linia)—The Ukrainian humanitarian aid shipment to the Chechen Republic, long ago broadly advertised by Ukrainian government and mass media, still is near Kyiv.

Representatives of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists addressed government officials early March to expedite the shipment's delivery. Afterward, acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk ordered all involved ministries and organizations to ensure urgent delivery of the humanitarian aid to the Chechen Republic. But, as it became known, the clothes, wheat and medicines that were to be shipped to Chechnya long ago, remain in warehouses near Kyiv.

"Although it seems that there are no political reasons to delay the shipment, technical and administrative problems are being solved sluggishly due to the lack of coordinated management," said Yuriy Semeniuk, Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists representative.

"It took a week to negotiate getting permission from Russia to land the IL-76 aircraft carrying the aid in Mozdok airport. The permission was eventually granted, but it turned out useless, for there is no a customs check point in the airport in Mozdok."

Since then, a different route was offered — via the airport in Makhachkala, Semeniuk said. Small portions of the aid were shipped on Ukrainian commercial flights. But the main 40-ton bulk of the shipment can be delivered only by the IL-76 cargo plane, which is still anchored, while Chechens badly need clothes and medicine," he said.

Ukraine unsure about Croatia force

(IntelNews/Unian)—The United Nations Security Council will approve by March 31 a resolution on a new mandate for U.N. peacekeeping forces in Croatia, says Volodymyr Handohiy, Foreign Ministry international organizations department chair.

"It is still not sure whether the Ukrainian contingent will remain or if Ukraine will withdraw a part of its forces. We are looking forward to suggestions from U.N. General Secretary Butros Butros-Ghali," said Handohiy. Ukrainian has about 550 troops in Croatia.

The peacekeeping operation in Croatia will receive a new name and separate commanders and will not be regarded as part of the U.N. operation in former Yugoslavia. The strength of the peacekeeping forces is also expected to be reduced, at the request of Croatia, from 12,000 to 5,000 troops.

UNA forms group to help settle Chechnya conflict

(IntelNews)—The Ukrainian National Association initiated the establishment of the contact group to help settle the conflict in the Chechen Republic peacefully, according to Anatoliy Lupynis, head of the UNA political council.

The group will be established in a month and will act on behalf of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, he said.

Former President Leonid Kravchuk, Lithuanian leader Vitautas Landsbergis, and former US Secretary of State Zbigniew Brzezinski have agreed to join, according to Lupynis. The contact group's first meeting will be in Baku, Azerbajan. The second meeting "will be in the Chechen Republic's capital of Grozny to study the situation on the spot," he said.

Dmytro Korchynskiy, a UNA leader, said: "The Foreign Affairs Ministry is blocking UNA's efforts to release the Ukrainian pilot who was taken prisoner during the war in Nahorniy Karabakh, Azerbajan, and now is being kept in Stepanakert. Although a formal appeal of the Foreign Affairs Ministry would be enough to free him, it has not been issued for half a year despite President Kuchma's consent."

Gay Pride movement spreads to Ukraine

(IntelNews)—Ukraine's gay community announced March 18 the creation of the Civil Human Rights Protection Committee, which will work to stop the "slaughter and discrimination against social groups in Ukraine." Homosexuals were viciously persecuted in the Soviet Union. Although gay activities were legalized after the USSR breakup the old mentality remains.

"The law does not protect us and sexual minority groups are still discriminated against in Ukraine," said Liliya Taranenko, co-chair of the Ukrainian Gays and Lesbians Association. "It is time for the state, militia, and criminals to stop pressuring us because this is not a form of disease," said Taranenko, an activist for the legalization of single-sex families.

Gay activists in Kyiv are organizing a range of events to be held in May to support homosexuality in Ukraine, according to Leonid Nefedovych, Infolio Gay Agency director. The International Gays and Lesbians Association (IGLA), Two Colors Homosexual Initiative, and the National Anti-AIDS Committee will organize the Ninth IGLA regional conference, a Kyiv Gay Pride '95 parade, a gay art exhibition and a Gay Film Festival.

AIDS activists are promoting the distribution of free syringes to drug users to help prevent the spread of the disease. "Extremely high prices for syringes and the developed market of cheap drugs, especially in southern regions of Ukraine, contribute to the spread of drugs and the AIDS threat," said Valentyn Konstandinov, a confessed drug user.

Yuriy Kobytsa, a member of the National Anti-AIDS Committee, said public organizations should champion the fight against AIDS in Ukraine. Sixty percent of AIDS and HIV-infected persons are unable to find a job after being diagnosed, according to Dr. Svetlana Antoniak, a member of the HIV- positive Association.

Soviet nostalgia flares up in Kharkiv

By Timothy Kryvomaz, *IntelNews*

Strong leftist sentiment in favor of restoration of the Soviet Union was on display in Kharkiv March 16, when about 4,000 demonstrators gathered to mark the anniversary of the March 1991 all-Union referendum on the future of the U.S.S.R., when Ukraine, along with all the other Soviet republics, voted to remain part of the Union.

The meeting was organized by the regional Committee For the Union, which includes the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Civic Congress of Ukraine, the Slavic Unity Party, and the Chornobyl Union.

Most of the speakers at the rally concluded their remarks with the call of "Long live the U.S.S.R.", while former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, current Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and former Belarusian Parliament Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich were denounced as "The Belovezhskiy Idiots," in reference to the 1991 agreement that dissolved the Soviet Union.

President Leonid Kuchma was also criticized "for his anti-popular policy and betrayal of Ukraine's national interests." The West was denounced for "interference in Ukraine's affairs." The protesters adopted a resolution demanding the President and Parliament "stop the bourgeois-criminal revolution" and "bring Ukraine back to the fraternal multinational family."

A poll released by the Kharkiv newspaper Vremia earlier that week indicated that eastern Ukrainian nostalgia for some sort of union is substantial. About 48 per cent of 960 respondents, who represented various social and demographic groups, said they support a referendum on establishing an economic, political and military union among Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine.

Only 30 per cent said they would oppose such a referendum, with the remaining 22 per cent undecided or indifferent. The newspaper said a similar trend exists in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, and that "the President and Parliament should not underestimate the public opinion of the East Ukrainian electorate."

Energy minister resigns

(IntelNews/Unian)—Energy Industry Minister Vilen Semeniuk has submitted his resignation, according to an Energy Industry Ministry official who requested anonymity. Semeniuk previously submitted his resignation last fall, but it was rejected because of the need for leadership before the winter season, when energy consumption peaks. If President Leonid Kuchma's idea to unite the Energy Industry Ministry with the State Nuclear Energy Committee is not implemented, Semeniuk will be replaced by current Deputy Energy Industry Minister Oleksiy Sheberstov, said the official.

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Kuchma visits Japan

(IntelNews/Unian)—President Leonid Kuchma met Japanese Emperor Akihito on March 23 as part of a visit to Japan, which will likely result in a US$200 million aid package to Ukraine.

The money is part of the US$5.5 billion in financial aid offered by the Group of Seven Industrial Nations. Making progress toward closing the Chornobyl nuclear power plant is a condition of receiving the aid. Representatives from both countries agreed Ukraine should continue to seek alternative energy sources.

The Ukrainian government also will continue its economic privatization plan, according to a joint statement Ukrainian representatives thanked the Japanese for their help during the transition to a market economy.

In the statement, both sides agreed "to support an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," a document ratified by Ukraine last November. The treaty, originally signed in 1965, is to expire this July.

In addition, Japan succeeded in extracting from the Ukrainian side "its support for Japan's permanent membership in the [United Nations] Security Council."

Ukraine's total trade with Japan last year totaled US$140 million, including $51 million in exports and $89 million in imports, resulting in a trade deficit of $38 million, according to the State Customs Committee.

The volume of Ukraine-Japan trade accounts for 1.8 per cent of Ukrainian trade with Asian countries, and for 0.3 per cent of Kyiv's total foreign trade.

Barter deals accounted for about 16 per cent of total imports, and 0.5 per cent of total exports.

All trade contracts signed in January 1995, including a $23.6 million barter contract, amounted to $32.13 million. According to these contracts, Ukraine is exporting ferrous metals and alloys and importing coke.While almost two-thirds of Ukraine's imports from Japan are high- tech machinery and equipment, Ukraine's exports largely consist of raw materials.

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Price drop continues

By Ed Zwirn, *IntelNews*

Consumer prices in Kyiv registered their second consecutive drop as the cost of just about everything in the IntelNews consumer basket held steady.

Because of a sharp deterioration of the karbovanets relative to the dollar, dollar consumers gained nearly 6 per cent in purchasing power during the past two weeks. The cost of living in dollars hit its lowest level since January.

People earning salaries paid in the national currency gained only slightly, with their costs dropping 0.8 per cent, from KBV 9,729,500 on March 9 to KBV 9,655,850 on March 23 — the lowest level since Feb. 9.

The cost of living in dollars now measures US$62.90, a 5.9 per cent decrease from $66.87 on March 9. Dollar consumers, however, are still substantially worse off than they were when the basket cost 35.60 on Oct. 20, 1994, one day before the Ukrainian government announced its price liberalization program.

The overall increase since Feb. 24, 1994, is 384.1 per cent, as measured in the local currency. The index now measures 484.1, with the base period equal to 100. The cost of living in dollars increased by 15.1 per cent during the same period, with the dollar equivalent index now measuring 115.1.

Contributing most to the two-week decrease was a 27 per cent drop in the price of tomatoes, a 25 per cent decrease in the price of a Kyiv to Lviv train ticket and a 23.2 per cent drop in the consolidated price for eggs. Offsetting this was a 38.9 per cent increase in the cost of a train ticket to Moscow and a 10.2 per cent increase in the price of oranges.

Kuchma says Russia cheating on debt

(IntelNews)—President Leonid Kuchma accused Russia of defrauding Ukraine of billions of dollars by inflating the figures involved in the huge Ukrainian national debt to Russia, March 16.

"Starting from 1992, Russia has been twisting us around its finger — duping us by charging larger sums than the true debt of Ukraine to Russia. And by now, Russia has actually defrauded us of US$2.5 billion," he said, following a meeting he held with German Ambassador Alexander Arno at which European Union Economic Council credits for Ukraine were discussed.

He said the deception was one of the reasons behind Ukraine's present difficult economic situation and a reason why foreign credits are especially needed by Ukraine at this time, the President said.

Government faces non-confidence vote

(IntelNews)—Parliament voted overwhelmingly March 21 to schedule a vote of no confidence in the entire Cabinet of Ministers.

Sponsors of the resolutions argued that the Cabinet reneged on a February promise to compensate the poor for the energy price hikes, which were 680 per cent for electricity and 930 per cent for natural gas. According to parliamentary regulations, such a motion must be considered within five to 10 days.

"The rate of compensation does not coincide with the increase of prices for energy and gas," said Deputy Vadim Hetman, head of the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange.

The no-confidence motion, proposed by Reforms faction leader Serhiy Soboliev, was passed by a 218 to 36 margin. The motion calls for a roll-call vote on the fate of the entire Cabinet.

Paris meeting results in US$5.5 billion in aid

(intelNews/Unian)—Ukraine this year will get US$5.5 billion in financial aid as a result of the March 21-22 meeting of the Paris Club creditors.

Major components of the aid package include $2.1 billion in World Bank credit and another $2.5 billion from rescheduling Ukraine's debt payment to Russia.

Economics Minister Roman Shpek also announced during a recent official visit to the United States that the U.S. government would allocate $250 million in financial aid.

At the Paris meeting, the EU conditioned its $300 million aid package on progress made toward closing the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

He said the major goal of the conference was to present Ukraine's energy programs to its financial donors to let them decide the specifics of their investment projects. Representatives of nearly 20 countries providing financial assistance to Ukraine attended the meeting.

EU to grant Ukraine C$84million

(IntelNews)—The European Union (EU) is expected to approve a grant of ECU52 million — about C$84 million, or US$60 million — to Ukraine in July, according to Luis Moreno, head of the European Commission's delegation in Ukraine.

The grant is to be disbursed shortly after its approval, Moreno said.

The aid will come under the auspices of the EU's Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States program. A total of ECU23 million of the grant will support rehabilitation of Ukraine's energy sector under a joint project funded by the EU and G7 industrialized nations.

"The program is aimed at assisting Ukraine in its transition to a market economy and democratic freedoms by providing grants to transfer technological knowhow from public and private EU organizations", said Moreno. "The European Union is committed to help Ukraine in its on reform efforts and we will continue to do this in the future."

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Newsbriefs

UkrHaz officials charged with tax evasion

(IntelNews)—Ukraine's State Tax Inspection discovered tax violations in 78 per cent of 269 UkrHaz natural gas distribution corporation enterprises audited during the last two years. The state-owned firms concealed taxable income and falsified production costs, according to State Tax Inspection officials. Inspectors collected KBV 68 billion in penalties from the UkrHaz monopoly, 244 UkrHaz officials were charged with regulation violations. Criminal charges were brought against 14 UkrHaz representatives.

Diphtheria vaccinations initiated

(IntelNews/Unian)—The rapid spread of diphtheria in Ukraine caused the Health Ministry Anti-Diphtheria Committee to initiate a nationwide anti-diphtheria vaccination program March 15. Diphtheria has most affected Crimea, Mykolayiv, Kherson and Zaporizhia oblasts as well as Sevastopol and Kyiv, said the Health Ministry officials. Five million residents of these areas who did not undergo anti-diphtheria vaccination in the past three years will be vaccinated soon.

300,000 illegal immigrants in Ukraine

(IntelNews/Unian)—About 300,000 illegal immigrants are residing in Ukraine, says Deputy Nationalities Minister Oleksandr Hashytskiy. Parliament will soon toughen the Criminal Code of Ukraine on border crossings, he said, with the intention of reducing the number of illegal immigrants in Ukraine. According to Hashytskiy, the Nationalities and Migration Ministry has drafted 15 laws that have been already submitted for review to Parliament's human rights, ethnic minorities and international relations committee.

Chornobyl hunger strike continues

(IntelNews/Unian)—A 23-day hunger strike by Chornobyl victims continued in Kharkiv March 23, while major demands of the protest remain unanswered.

Among the strikers' demands is an investigation of how money from the Chornobyl Fund was spent on the oblast level and that a cabinet-level delegation negotiate with them. The statement was forwarded to the Parliamentary Chornobyl Committee.

"The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has not reported on its use of Chornobyl funds," said Volodymyr Proskurin, Ukrainian Chornobyl Association Kharkiv branch deputy chair. "We have information that the use of these funds had nothing to do with Chornobyl."

"The health of some Chornobyl Association members of the hunger strike is getting worse," Proskurin said.

Ukraine to get new country telephone code

(IntelNews)—On April 16 Ukraine will implement a new country code - "380." This code will apply only to incoming international calls from non-CIS countries. Currently Ukraine is using the country code "7," which at one time functioned for all former Soviet states. Ukraine's international telecommunications operator, Utel, completed the technical changes necessary to implement the new country code. Until the end of the year, both the old and the new dialing procedures will operate. The new country code "380" was allocated to Ukraine by the International Telecommunications Union (Geneva, Switzerland) on Dec. 5, 1994. As long as Ukraine remained in the "7-zone," Ukrainian telecommunications enterprises were not able to accurately account for the number of completed incoming international calls, nor provide certain integrated digital telecommunications networks.

Kuchma says Chornobyl plant in good condition

(IntelNews/Unian)—President Leonid Kuchma visited the Chornobyl nuclear power plant March 14 and said he found its condition to be satisfactory.

"I have seen that the Chornobyl nuclear power plant is operated by highly skilled personnel who love their business," he said.

Kuchma toured the Chornobyl nuclear power plant's generator hall and the control panel of unit #3. The President also visited the town of Slavutych, about 30 km from Chornobyl, and met with the nuclear power plant's administration and leading technical specialists.

"Some Western leaders insist that Chornobyl nuclear power plant should be shut down," Kuchma said. "They link settling this issue with offering Ukraine financial aid. It is a sort of political blackmail."

There are no technical reasons to close the plant, said Mykhailo Umanets, State Nuclear Energy Committee chair. Instead, he said, the plant's safety should be upgraded. "Moreover, Ukraine's integral state energy supply system may be destroyed because of shutdown of two other units of Chornobyl nuclear power plant," Umanets said.

Shutdown at Zaporizhia

(IntelNews/Unian)—The turbo generator of the No. 4 power block of the Zaporizhia nuclear power plant was shut down March 21 evening because of an overheated bearing and a surge in the level of vibration, according to the Information centre of the State Nuclear Industry Committee. After power plant operators stopped the generator, the examination showed its rotor was seriously deformed. Also , the No.1 power block of the Khmelnitskiy nuclear power plant was shut down by the automatic emergency control system because of the defects in the generator's mechanical system. The repair will take at least two months, based on the preliminary estimates.

Medicine production gets a boost

(IntelNews/Unian)—Following a March 23 parliamentary resolution, the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Bank mandated that the Health Ministry develop a medicine acquisition program during the first half of 1995. The program will be allocated KBV 1 trillion from the state budget.

By April 1 the Cabinet and National Bank must provide the State Committee for Medicine Industry with a KBV 500 billion loan for the acquisition of raw materials, components and substances needed for medicine production, according to the resolution on the medicine supply situation.

Within a month, the Parliamentary Health Committee and the Budget, Finance and Banking Committee are to prepare specific legislative proposals to exempt from customs duties, raw materials, components and substances imported for medicine production.

One of the most unique architectural wonders of the world is the Temppeliaukio Church in Helsinki — which has been constructed entirely within a hollowed out rock. Besides being a major tourist attraction, services at the church are very well attended and its members come from dozens of nationalities and a great many denominations. The church was dedicated in 1969.

Finnair offers charter rates for flights to Ukraine from Western Canada

This season Finnair will offer reduced rates to Toronto for passengers in Western Canada flying on to Ukraine.

Christina Colliander, General Manager of Finnair's Canadian operations, says that under a new agreement with Air Canada, Finnair will offer Finncharter add ons to flights from Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Thunder Bay to Toronto for all passengers flying on to Kyiv, which are lower than regular Air Canada rates to Toronto from those cities.

Prices for these add ons are $190 for Thunder Bay, $230 for Winnipeg, $330 for Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon and Regina and $380 for Vancouver and Victoria.

Prices from Toronto to Kyiv are $1025 from May 1 to June 16 and from Aug. 9 until Sept. 30 and $1255 during the June 16-Aug. 8 peak season.

Finnair also offers several Scandinavian packages for people who wish to spend a few nights there on their way back to Canada.

Among these are one night in Stockholm, which includes accommodation in a first class hotel with breakfast for $75, a night in Helsinki which also includes accommodation in a first class downtown hotel along with breakfast and transfers to and from the airport for $105, or a Helsinki-Stockholm luxury cruise which includes two breakfasts, two dinners and transfers to Finnair's city terminal for $445.

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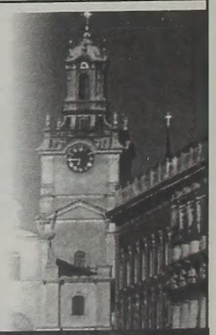

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Підготова до Святкувань Ювілеїв 400–ліття Берестейської та 350–ліття Ужгородської Уній

Вже від якогось часу Центральний Комітет Ювілеїв у 1996: 400–ліття Берестейської та 350–ліття Ужгородської Уній, створений при Архикатедральнім Соборі св. Юра в Львові, сходиться часто на наради, щоб уложити певний та гідний плян цих ювілейних святкувань.

Генеральний Секретар цих святкувань, Преосв. Кир Василій Медвіт, ЧСВВ, звідомив нас листом з дня 10-го лютого, 1995 року, що ці ювілейні святкування розпічнуться з днем 25-го листопада, 1995 року, на свято св. священомученика Йосафата, у Римі, куди прибудуть всі владики УГКЦ до св. Отця «ад ліміна», як також відслужать торжественно Молебень при престолі мощей св. Йосафата у Соборі св. Петра. А закінчення ювілеїв подано на день 14-го жовтня, 1996 року.

Крім цих загальних дат вже запроєктовано почерговості такі ювілейні святкування:

18–21 травня, 1995 року — Проща до Завраниці (Тернопільська область) з відновленням посвяти українського народу Преч. Діві Марії: як також до інших відпустових місць в Україні.

25 серпня 1995 року — Проща вірних з України та діяспори до Люрду, щоб подякувати Преч. Діві Марії за одержання свободи держави і Церкви в Україні.

20–24 квітня, 1996 року — Святкування Мукачівської Єпархії в Ужгороді.

28 квітня, 1996 року — Святкування у Івано–Франківській Єпархії.

Половина травня, 1996 року — Тернопіль.

15 червня, 1996 року — Самбір і Дрогобич

Початок червня, 1996 року — Зборів.

1–14 липня, 1996 року — Рим, із такою тимчасовою програмою:

6-го липня — Молебень у Соборі св. Петра.

7-го липня — Св. Літургія у Соборі св. Петра з участю св. Отця. Ввечері — Святочна Академія.

19 серпня, 1996 року — Святкування у Перемишлі.

21 серпня до 14 жовтня — Святкування у Львівській Архиєпархії з можливим закінченням Свята у Києві.

Також на нарадах Помісного Синоду УГКЦ відбутих у Львові 7-го листопада, 1994 року, вирішено вислати окрему делеґацію від нашої Церкви до Риму на час 1-го до 3-го лютого, 1995 року, щоб предложити плян наших святкувань св. Отцеві та зустрітися із зацікавленими диказтеріями та особама стосовно наших ювілеїв. Членами цієї делеґації обрано:

Митрополит Максим Германюк — голова; Владика Іван Семедій — Єпископ Мукачівський; Владика Роберт Москаль — Єпископ Пармський; Владика Михаїл Гринчишин — Екзарх у Франції; Владика Василь Медвіт — Єпископ–Помічник Львівський; о. д-р Іван Дацько — Канцлер Патріяршої Курії; о. д-р Андрій Онуферко — Референт з екуменічних питань.

Вернувши з Риму Митрполит Германюк подав до відома Центральному Комітетові, що в днях 1–2 лютого українська делеґація мала свої засідання в Римі, щоб узгіднити, в якому дусі, з якою візією і з якою ціллю делеґація УГКЦ має вести розмови з Римською Курією.

У склад делеґації від Римської Курії входили: Архиєпископ Іван–Люїс Тозан — Державний Секретаріят; Архиєпископ Мирослав Марусин — Секретар Конґреґації для Східних Церков; Архиєпископ Кзеценсіо Сепе — Конґреґація для Клиру; Архиєпископ Франціско Хавієр Ерразузіз Оса — Конґреґація для Монахів та Інститутів посвяченого життя; Єпископ Рер Дюпре — Папська Рада про з'єднення християн; Монс. Клавдіо Марія Целі — Державний Секретаріят.

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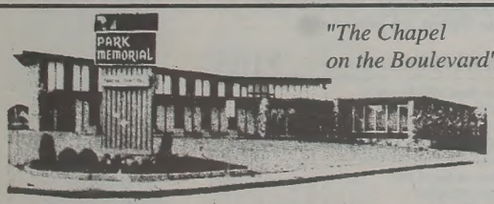

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«Ідіть у село, що перед вами; відразу ж знайдете прив'язану ослицю й осля з нею; відв'яжіть і приведіть до мене» (Мат. 21, 2). А як хтось скаже вам щось, ви відповісте, що Господь їх потребує, але він незабаром поверне їх назад». Учні зробили, як Ісус їм повелів, і «коли привели ослицю та ослятко, поклали на них одяг й Ісус сів на неї» (Мт. 21, 7). Сидячи на осляти, Ісус в'їздив в Єрусалим. І сталося щось неочікуване «Народ, якого було багато, простеляв свою одіж по дорозі, а інші зрізували з дерев гілки і розкладали по дорозі. Люди, що йшли перед ним і ззаду кликали: «Осанна Синові Давида! Благословен той, що йде в ім'я Господне, Осанна на висоті» (Мт. 21.8–9). А св. Лука додає: «Благословен цар, що йде в ім'я Господне! Мир на небі і слава на висотах!»(Лк. 19,38).

Чи міг краще в'їхати в Єрусалим на свої страсті?

Коли треба було жертвувати пасху Ісус послав Петра та Йоана: «Ідіть — сказав — та приготуйте нам пасху, щоб ми її спожили». Вони Його спитали: «Де хочеш, щоб ми приготували?» Він відповів їм: «Ось, коли ввійдете в місто, стріне вас чоловік, що буде нести глечик води. Ідіть слідом за ним у господу, куди він увійде і скажіть господареві дому: Учитель тобі каже: Де світлиця, в якій я з учнями моїми міг би спожити пасху?» І як передше з ослицею, те саме й тепер. Коротке слово: Учитель потребує — вистарчає, щоб дістати те, що потрібне. «Пішли вони й знайшли так, як він сказав їм, і приготовили пасху» (Лк. 22, 11–13). Ісуса всі знають. Одне слово і Його прохання сповнене. Це дуже «боліло» фарисеїв і всіх Його противників. Вони навіть відважилися сказати: «Учителю, заборони твоїм учням» (коли нарід кликав — Осанна). Виглядало, що Ісус стоїть на «вершку слави»!

Настрої народу змінилися за неповних п'ять днів. Ті, що кілька днів тому підносили Ісуса «під небеса» починають кричати «розіпни, розіпни його!» Вони наполягають і сильним криком вимагають, щоб Його розіп'яти. І крик їх переміг. Тепер радіють фарисеї і всі Христові вороги. І сталося. «Було вже близько шостої години, і темрява по всій землі настала аж до дев'ятої години, бо затьмарилося сонце; а й завіса храму роздерлася посередині. Ісус закликав сильним голосом: Отче у твої руки віддаю духа мого! Сказавши це, він віддав духа» (Лк. 23 44–46). Смерть Ісуса Христа стверджує римський сотник і додає: «Справді цей чоловік був праведний» (Лк. 23 47), а св. Марко пише, що сотник сказав: «Чоловік цей справді був Син Божий» (Мрк. 15, 39). І хоч Ісус помер, фарисеї зажурені: приходять до Пилата і просять: «Ми пригадали собі, пане, що той обманник ще за життя був сказав: Я по трьох днях воскресну. Звели, отже, щоб гробниця була добре забезпечена аж по третій день...». Пилат каже до них: «Маєте сторожу, ідіть і забезпечте, як знаєте». Очевидно фарисеї знали, як найкраще забезпечити гріб, щоб нарешті позбутися на завжди Ісуса! Привалили вхід до гробу вельми тяжким каменем і поставили сторожу римських воїнів, знаних зі своєї хоробрости по всьому світу.

Та коли в неділю раненько прийшли жінки до гробу, не застали жовнірів. Що з ними сталося? У великому страху жовніри повтікали і прийшли до міста й оповіли первосвященикам про все, що сталося. Вони, зібравшись із старшинами та скликавши раду, дали воякам досить грошей і звеліли: «Скажіть, що його учні прийшли вночі й викрали його, коли ми спали» (Мат. 2811–13). Недовго тішилися фарисеї і вороги Христові. Все ж таки рознеслася про це чутка поміж юдеями — аж по цей день (Мт. 28, 15). Жиди купують брехню за гроші, але спокою не мають... чекають, що буде.

Та й апостоли в замішанні. Приходять задихані жінки і хапаючи віддих кажуть: «Ми бачили ангелів, які казали, що Він воскрес. Але слова ці їм видавалися пустим верзінням, і вони не повірили їм» (Лк. 24, 11).

Вправді апостоли чули, що в місті говорять, що Ісуса вкрали. Хто? Кому треба нагого тіла помершої людини? Вони знають, що жоден з них не викрав тіла Ісусового! Що ж про це все думати? Справа трошки прояснилася, коли Петро і Іван пішли самі до гробу. «Петро (пішов) з отим іншим учнем (св. Іваном) і приходять до гробниці... приходить тоді слідом за ним Симон Петро, і ввійшовши до гробниці, бачить що попотнище лежить...» (Йоан 20, 7–8). Вони бо ще не знали Писання, за яким мав він з мертвих воскреснути».

А тих двох, що ішли до Еммеус. Вони сперечаються. Про що? «Деякі з наших жінок щоправда, нас здивували: вони пішли були ранесенько до гробниці, та не знайшли його тіла, повернулись і нам оповіли, що вони бачили ангелів, які їм з'явилися і сказали, що він живий» (Лк. 24 22). «Де ж можна таке говорити? Ті жінки завжди щось вигадують!» — Так собі думають і говорять по дорозі і сперечаються. Коли ж до них долучився Ісус і зайшов з ними повечеряти, Він їм пояснив: «О безумні й повільні серцем у вірі, супроти всього, що були пророки оповіли. Хіба не треба було Христові так страждати й увійти в свою славу?» (Лк. 24, 25). А апостол Тома цілий тиждень не вірив, що Ісус воскрес! Аж тоді прозрів, коли Ісус їв рибу і кришку меду і казав Томі діткнутися Його ран. Щойно Святий Дух, що зійшов у П'ятидесятницю, відкрив апостолам очі вповні!

Св. Павло, що був ще молодим хлопцем в день воскресіння Ісуса Христа напише пізніше: «А коли б Христос не воскрес, то марна проповідь наша, то марна й віра ваша» (І Кор. 15, 14).

Бажаю всім читачам «Українських вістей» Богом благословенних свят Христового Воскресіння. ***Христос Воскрес — Воістину Воскрес!***

Freedom Had A Price at Global Visions Festival

As part of the 15th Global Visions Festival, Yurij Luhovy's film *Freedom Had A Price* was screened at the Garneau Theatre in Edmonton.

The film was introduced by William Moore-Kilgannon, who explained that although the festival primarily focuses on international issues of development the festival was pleased to screen this important film on a Canadian topic.

Following the screening of the film Peter Melnycky, Research Historian with the Alberta Historic Sites and Archives Service addressed the audience, explaining that 80 years after the commencement of the First World War, the internment of Ukrainians and other immigrants during that was had still barely entered into the collective memory of Canadians. He stressed that those documenting the history of internment were concerned that public record always be clear on the fact that the people imprisoned during this period were civilians. They immigrated to this country with great hopes and expectations for their future as Canadians. They were neither criminals nor enemies, but were unfortunately treated as such.

Relating some further thoughts on the history of internment, Melnycky's concluding comments stressed that Freedom *Had A Price* opens up the circle of consciousness surrounding a painful period in Canadian history and widens the forum of belated discussion on the topic. The film stands as an important contribution to the documentation of a topic which until recently had received precious little attention. The rare first person accounts of those who witnessed internment from both sides of the barbed wire will stand as irreplaceable testimony of the events which unfolded so long ago. they offer a human face to the cold official statistics of internment.

Survivor Stefania Mielniczuk of Spirit Lake, Quebec Internment Camp with film maker Yurij Luhovy. She was taken as a child with her parents in 1915. Now lives in Cowansville, Quebec.

At a time when people are still trying to come to grips with these events, the film facilitates filling in the blank pages of many family histories. It reveals the human costs of internment: the pain, the sorrow and the loss.

Following Melnycky's presentation the floor was opened to comments and questions. The first comment came from an elderly woman who expressed her outrage that such an episode had happened, that the Canadian government had used "these men" in such a way, that so little was known about this event, and that there was no commemoration of it. A young man of University age related what his grandfather had been interned at Castle Mountain Internment Camp, had escaped from the camp and had kept this entire episode in his life a secret from his family until two weeks before his death. A question from the floor was posed as to what measures were being taken to commemorate the internment camp sites. Another question from the floor was asked as to what extent these events were reflected in n the country's texts and in the school curriculums of children. A final question concerned the War Measures Act as the underlying vehicle for enabling the state to carry out such actions as internment and the need to abolish such legislation in order to prevent such events occurring in the future.

After the conclusion of the evening, William Moore-Kilgannon underlined that the Centre for International Alternatives was mandated to consult withe educators on school curriculums and that it would be recommending the film in this regard.

This annual festival held from January 27 to February 4, presents a selection of decumentary films and videos dealing with race relations, justice issues and global environment. Each film goes through a selection process and is included in the festival by invitation only.

To arrange a screening of the 16mm film in Canada or United States, please write to: La Maison de Montage Luhovy Inc., 2330 Ave. Beaconsfield, Montreal, Canada, H4A 2G8, (514) 481-5871. Various hand-out materials regarding the internment story are also supplied.

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Film crackdown planned

(IntelNews/Unian)—The newly established National Broadcasting Council plans to discourage through its licensing process the showing of horror and action films.

According to Council Chairman Viktor Petrenko, the council — once confirmed by Parliament — will recommend "that license fees for companies engaged in the regular running of horror movies and action movies be tripled."

The Council's Odesa branch will include three members each in the Rivne and Lutsk branches, said Petrenko.

The group also plans to hold television training programs in Lviv, Simferopol and all the oblast centers.

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For further information, please contact: Andy Drohmirecki, Lifecall Program Manager, St. Michael's Group 403-473-5621 or Ms. Valerie Murphy, Program Coordinator, Lifecall of Canada 403-462-1657.

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Newsbriefs

Drug raid in Odesa

(IntelNews)—Odesa law enforcement officials confiscated 10 kilograms of poppy stalks, more than one litre of the opium, guns and ammunition worth KBV120 million. The Odesa Interior Ministry Anti-Drug Trafficking Department organized the raid to crack down on drug dealers in the village of Korsunka.

Communists to submit constitution

(IntelNews/Unian)—The Communist party of Ukraine will submit its own draft constitution to the Constitutional Committee, says Communist leader Petro Symonenko. The draft constitution is to be coordinated with the program approved at the Second Congress of the Ukrainian Communist Party and will contribute to the protection of working people, said Symonenko.

Yemets urges presidential republic

(IntelNews/Unian)—Oleksandr Yemets, Constitutional Committee coordinator, says that he supports Ukraine becoming a presidential republic. The structure of power is likely to turn into "a hybrid between a presidential and a parliamentary republic" after the new constitution is adopted, he said. It would be an inefficient structure for Ukraine, he said. But "bearing in mind the leftist majority in Parliament that stand for liquidation of the presidency in Ukraine, such an outcome is most likely," Yemets added.

French officers study in Ukraine

(IntelNews)—A group of French officers from Saint-Cyr military college is taking a training program in the higher military institutions of Ukraine. The group will visit the Kyiv Military School, Odesa Land Forces Academy, Kyiv Military Humanitarian Academy, Kharkiv Tank School and Ukrainian Armed Forces Academy. The French officers will examine the Ukrainian military education system and meet faculty and students, according to the Defense Ministry. The visit will end April 6.

Border system developed

(IntelNews/Unian)—A joint Ukrainian-Russian group of experts started developing a unified customs and border control system for the Ukrainian-Russian border Tuesday, according to Viktor Bannyk, commander of the Ukrainian border patrol troops. If the interdepartmental protocol on the joint system is signed, the pilot project will be implemented in five check points on the shared border beginning May 1. "By the end of the year, it would be possible to develop a unified system and introduce it in all 60 check points on the UkrainianRussian border," Bannyk said.

Ukraine, Vietnam sign accord

(IntelNews)—Ukrainian and Vietnamese Internal Affairs Ministers Volodymyr Radchenko and Buy Tkhien Ngo have signed an anti-crime cooperation agreement between the two ministries. The two law enforcement bodies agreed to fight against trans-national crime, drug smuggling, money laundering and on the exchange of information about criminal groups and joint anti-crime operations, Radchenko said. Ngo said the two countries had discussed the problem of illegal immigration, which involves a large number of Vietnamese citizens.

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Ties with Armenia improving

By Svietlana Seliutina, *Intel News*

Ukraine took a major step toward shoring up relations with its ex-fellow Soviet republic Armenia, with parliament speakers from the two countries signing a friendship and cooperation agreement, March 17.

"During the centuries-old history of Ukrainian-Armenian relations, there was never a case of disagreement between our nations," said Armenian Parliament Speaker Babkent Araktian. "Today, Ukraine is one of our most important partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States."

Ukrainian Speaker Oleksander Moroz agreed. "We initiated the newest history in our relations. Cooperation between Ukraine and Armenia will benefit our people," he said.

During an earlier stopover in Lviv Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian said he regretted that his country's contacts with Ukraine have developed poorly since the U.S.S.R.'s breakup, but that relations will start improving soon.

Allegations in 1992-1993 that Ukraine provided tanks to Azerbaijan, coupled with reported threats by Armenian militants to commit terrorist acts in Kyiv in retaliation, put a damper on relations in the early post-Soviet period. Armenia has been fighting a sporadic war with neighboring Azerbaijan since 1988.

The Armenian delegation met in Kyiv this week with President Leonid Kuchma, Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk and Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko. A broader cooperation agreement is expected to be signed during Kuchma's visit to Armenia in May, said Araktian.

Marchuk suggested an inter-governmental committee be established to review treaties and agreements and to coordinate the drafting of new agreements. Energy-poor Armenia is seeking Ukraine's support in the construction of a nuclear power plant and processing of radioactive waste products.

Killing of Israeli investigated

By Yaroslav Trofimov, *IntelNews*

Ukrainian security forces have launched an inquiry into the recent death of Israeli diplomat Shimon Feingold, according to Internal Affairs Ministry Crime Department chief Col. Vitaly Kelia.

Feingold, a senior official at the Kyiv office of the Jewish Agency for Israel, an arm of the Israeli Government, was found dead March 11 on the staircase of the Chervonoarmiysk St. apartment building where he lived.

The reasons behind Feingold's killing appear to be "purely criminal," said Zvi Magen, the Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine.

"It was a criminal killing, not premeditated murder," Magen said. "And it seems that Mr. Feingold was not killed for political reasons — for being an Israeli."

Ukrainian law enforcement authorities have arrested the prime suspect, a 21-year-old, third-year student of the Kyiv University physics department. The student, identified by the Interior Ministry only as "Mr. V.," allegedly hit Feingold in the face and threw him down the stairs when the Israeli official, who lived one floor below "Mr. V.'s" apartment, complained about excessive noise.

According to the autopsy report, Feingold died immediately of "brain damage caused by impact in the temple area and by falling down the stairs," the Ministry statement said.

The arrested student is now facing charges of "non-premeditated murder," Col. Kelia added.

Feingold, 46, was a "shaliah," or envoy, of the Jewish Agency, better known in Ukraine as Sokhnut, its Hebrew name. His primary responsibility was arranging the immigration of Ukrainian Jews to Israel and the promotion of cultural cooperation between Israel and the Ukrainian Jewish community.

According to Magen, the Israeli Embassy has not taken any additional security measures in the wake of the killing. The embassy, however, routinely urges all Israeli citizens in Ukraine to register with its consular department.

Feingold, originally from Kibbutz Hatzerim in the south of Israel, was the first Israeli government employee to be killed in the former Soviet Union, Magen said.

Crime data released

(IntelNews)—The crime rate in Ukraine increased 75 per cent in the last five years, said Volodymyr Radchenko, Internal Affairs Minister.

According to Radchenko, 572,000 crimes, including 198 contract murders, were committed last year, up 6 per cent from 1993.

Law enforcement forces have difficulty dealing with racketeering because criminals blackmail shadow economy businessmen and victims are reluctant to ask for police help, Radchenko said. Last year, anti-drug squad officers arrested about 1,200 drug dealers, confiscating 38 tons of drugs. They also shut down a Mykolayiv opium-producing laboratory.

In 1994, 7,500 Ukrainians were killed in traffic accidents, 43,200 cars were stolen, averaging 14 stolen cars a day in Kyiv.

Illegal migration is also a problem, Radchenko said. Currently, about 10,000 foreigners (mainly from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Vietnam) live in Kyiv illegally.

Coal mining accidents increase

(IntelNews/Unian)—Accidents are increasing in Ukraine's coal mines, Coal Industry Minister Viktor Poltavets said at a meeting with the Coal Industry Ministry, the State Labor Safety Supervisory Committee and coal enterprise representatives, March 17.

A total of 45,000 accidents, 368 of which were fatal, took place at Ukrainian coal mines in 1994. In addition, 55 miners died of heart attacks in mines or shortly after finishing work. In the first two months of this year, 65 miners died, up from the 45 deaths reported during the same period last year.

A shortage of funding is expected to block the implementation of coal mine safety programs approved at the meeting. Several mine directors complained that a long-awaited state coal industry support program has not yet been passed and that coal consumers keep deferring payments for coal.

Михайло Ерст відвідає Едмонтон

Людина з нелюдськими можливостями. По професії лікар, спеціяліст в реабілітації, з покликання — телепат, гіпнотизер, психокінетик, цілювач, стрясувач, магік і факір. Де кілька років чарує і дивує своїми феноменальними вчинками і можливостями на рідній Україні і в Польщі, де перебуває більшість свого часу, також в багатьох інших країнах куди його запрошують на парапсихологічні конгреси і симпозіюми, фестівалі людей з надприродними властивостями. Виступає також самостійно.

Під час минулорічного фестивалю «Невідомого світу» в Варшаві здобув сенсацію небувалої висоти. Є феноменом в цій ділянці подібно як італієць Ніколя Кутало або австрієць Ґеорґ Райтер. Зараз ми маємо можливість бути свідками, як Михайло Ерст демонструє речі абсолютно незвиклі.

Чим властиво займається ця людина? Це заледве коротке вичислення його можливостей, які представляє під час публичних сеансів:

За допомогою телепатії без помилок відгадує в часі передачі людські думки. Одночасно надає другим свою волю до такої міри, що добровольці стають поставлені в протележні з натурою позиції. Знаходить заховані публікою речі або знаходить місце їх пропажі. Переміщується серед публіки незауваженим, працює з телекінезою, тобто порушенням дрібних предметів на віддаленні силою волі Лікує хворобливість шляхом терапії або енергії, може відчитувати з обличчя з правдивістю поліційського детектора брехні. Крім цього Михайло Ерст може робити незвиклі речі зі своїм цілом. Може виплетати свої зв'язані руки, крутити їх навколо, вигинати в суставах в протилежний напрям, а голову крутити навколо шиї. Легко перебуває 5 хвилин під водою або лежить на розбитим шклі.

Все це робить з приємністю й гумором. Ерст трохи розмовляє по польськи. Вважає що найсильнішою і найправдивішою зброєю людини є добро як Божа ласка, але люди про це незнають і не використують того. Вважає також, що людський організм здатний виробити лікарство на всі хвороби, але треба його навчити цього самодосконалення.

Кожний може пізнати незнані речі , стрверджує — завдяки праці над собою, тренуючи ціло і розум.

Навчитися порозуміння на віддалі використуючи телепатію і телекінезу. Ключ до щастя є в людині. Багато є до цього доріг, одною із них є вправи йоги.

Встидливий і скромний, львів'янин, 32–літний батько двох дітей, подорожує і виступає в товаристві дружини. Під час своїх виступів не боїться критики і недовір'я. З кептизмом відноситься до обмовин. А коли закінчує свої неу'явні чари на залі залишає онімілі обличчя глядачів, зворушенні і глибоко перейняті таким безпосереднім і близьким контактом з невідомим.

300 enterprises privatized since beginning of the year

(IntelNews/Unian)—Yuriy Yekhanurov, State Property Fund chair, says that about 300 mid-sized and large Ukrainian enterprises have been privatized since the beginning of this year.

During the first two months of 1995, 1.5 million Ukrainians received privatization certificates, Yekhanurov said. More than 10 million people have begun exercising their right to purchase shares of different companies.

Only one enterprise of the 300 — the Ukraina chocolate factory — was privatized with the participation of foreign investments.

To meet its goal of privatizing 8,000 mid-sized and large enterprises this year, the State Property Fund will open a network of certificate auction centres before mid-year. Fifty branches of the 26 centres will operate in different oblasts.

The network of auctions will make it possible to offer the shares of 3,000 enterprises for sale this spring. Starting April 1, the certificate auctions will be carried out daily in Kyiv, Yekhanurov said.

Yekhanurov said he was ready to fulfill the state privatization program for 1995. "I am not going to wait until a certain governmental official frustrates the matter," he said. "Those who will not be able to fulfill their obligations in privatization will be fired."

One such privatization certificates auction centre opened in Poltava March 15 as distribution of individual privatization certificates was initiated in the eastern oblast. The list of 192 area enterprises subject to privatization was presented to the centre's visitors, said Mykola Ovcharenko, head of the State Property Fund's Poltava oblast department.

"The opening of the privatization centre actually means the beginning of mass privatization in Poltava oblast," said Ovcharenko. "More than 350,000 oblast residents already own their shares of former state property by having invested their privatization certificates. And this accounts for about one-fifth of Poltava oblast's potential shareholders. While in the meantime, 303 area enterprises are privatized, we expect their number to reach 1,000 by year end."

Ukraine's food exports boom

(IntelNews/Biznes)—Ukraine exported US$895.4 million worth of food products in 1994, up from more than $448 million in the prior year, which makes the country one of the largest food exporters in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Ukraine also reduced food imports to $95.5 million last year, down from $130 million in 1993.

Meat and meat products — totaling $278 million, up from $51.3 million in 1993 — contributed most to Ukraine's increased food exports. Milk and dairy products raised $162.6 million in exports, up from $43.2 million in 1993. Sugar exports brought in some $429.4 million, up from $334.6 million during the previous year.

The poor grain harvest last year did not allow the grain exports to steeply increase, rising moderately to $25.4 million, from $19 million in 1993.

Karasyk encourages agricultural investment

(IntelNews)—Agriculture Minister Yuriy Karasyk is urging regional agriculture department leaders to learn about investment projects.

These projects would "ensure that foreign credits and investments in Ukrainian agriculture are appropriated through detailed and practical projects," he said during a two-day seminar, March 22-23. The conference concerns investment project development methodology.

The Agricultural-Industrial Complex was given top priority in terms of foreign investments, Karasyk said.

The World Bank invested US $32 million in a project related to seed production. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will provide direct credits for projects of at least US $10 million, according to EBRD representatives.

The seminar was organized by the Ukrainian Agriculture Ministry, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the British Know-How Fund and the Edmonton-based Canadian company Bohdan Chomiak Consulting.

Ukraine to increase gas meter production

(IntelNews/Unian)—The government plans to increase domestic production of natural gas and electricity meters this year, which could help control Ukrainian use of energy resources.

While only 20,000 industrial gas meters were produced domestically in 1994, 25,000 gas meters for industrial use and 270,000 meters for household use are planned for production this year. At least 500,000 electric meters will be produced in 1995, up from 200,000 meters produced last year.

Business

Oil and gas delegation heading for Ukraine

(UkrNews)—The first trade delegation from Alberta dealing primarily with the oil and gas sector, will be visiting Ukraine in May.

Don Wilson, director for Europe for Alberta Economic Development and Tourism told Ukrainian News approximately 12-15 businessmen will participate in this mission, which will be in Ukraine from May 10 to May 17.

The delegation will primarily visit Kyiv, but will also take a side trip to Pryluky, Chernihiv oblast, in order to tour the site of the Lelyakivski oil field, which is to be developed by Calgary's Uk-Ran Oil under a new joint venture with the Ukrainian state firm Ukrnafta.

The Lelyakivski project is the first one in which a Canadian company will be helping to develop oil and gas resources in the Republic of Ukraine itself.

Another Canadian company, OTM International Developments Ltd., is already drilling in the Kerch Peninsula of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The group will also be visiting Poland and Romania, but will spend most of its time in Ukraine, said Wilson.

Some members of the group may also be looking at possibilities in Azerbaijan.

Business Briefs

US$60 million hotel planned

(IntelNews/Unian)—European, Turkish and Syrian construction companies specializing in building modern hotel complexes, will compete in April for contracts to build the first five-star hotel in southern Ukraine. The two-year project will cost US$60 million to complete. Bidding will be held in Odesa, said Anatoly Grechannikov, Intourist-Odesa agency general director. Hendruan Condriady Rony, the Indonesian Republic's Ambassador to Ukraine, also participated in discussions about the project.

Odesa trade zone progresses

(IntelNews/Unian)—Work progresses on planning for the Odesa free trade zone. The zone, to be located in the city's Porto-Franco area, is expected to provide a boon for the local economy, with separate zones to be located in the nearby ports of Yuzhniy and Ilyichevsk. A government committee consisting of representatives of different ministries has approved a set of preliminary planning documents. The final authorization for the project is scheduled for the end of April.

BLASCO strike planned

(IntelNews)—Black Sea Shipping Company employees are prepared to strike if they do not soon receive back wages. Thirty-six BSSC ships represented by the Sea Trade Unions Committee demanded that Oleksiy Koval, company director, immediately pay the KBV30 billion owed to crews. Otherwise, the STUC plans to sue the company's management. Intertrip sea-base employees have not been paid for two months. At least 250 employees are ready to strike and Serhiy Kushnir, base trade union leader, plans to launch a hunger strike.

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Interest rates continue to fall

By Serhiy Shevchenko, *IntelNews*

Average annual interest rates charged by commercial banks for monthly loans to companies continued to decline during the week of March 20-26, responding to a lower discount rate. Interest rates hit the 250 per cent level, down from the previous week's 290 per cent after the National Bank of Ukraine lowered the discount rate, the rate at which it lends money to commercial banks.

Commercial banks decreased their interest rates as they scrambled to adjust to the new, lower discount rate. Beginning March 10, the NBU offered a 204 per cent annual interest rate for loans to banks, down from 252 per cent.

Some commercial banks selling credit have excessive credit resources and will continue dropping interest rates in the near future, analysts said. Those banks that refuse to follow the trend may eventually face serious problems trying to sell credit on the market, analysts said.

The NBU's lower discount rate also pressured interest rates to drop on the inter-bank credit market, the market where commercial banks loan money to each other. Weekly loan rates dipped to between 100 and 110 per cent last week, down from 150 per cent the week before, while monthly loans fixed at 180 per cent, down from 220 per cent.

The interest rates for short-term (one-to-two day) loans did not change from their 80 per cent level from the last week. But those rates did drop by almost 30 per cent the prior week, leaving little room for the rates to drop any lower, analysts said.

Observers say declining interest rates will continue shaking the money market in the near future unless the government passes another decision to use monetary emissions, pumping more money into circulation. Meanwhile, the current trend in interest rates is expected to stabilize business activity in the country, boosting the incentive of businesses to borrow. The trend would also slim profits for commercial banks.

However, much future development will depend on the Parliament, which has given initial approval to President Leonid Kuchma's 1995 budget. Passing the budget is crucially important for Ukraine and if passed it may eventually lead to the International Monetary Fund's US$1.5 billion standby credit to Ukraine.

Ukrainian banks struggling to survive

By Natalia Olynec and Oleksandr Shtolko, *IntelNews*

A shocking number of Ukrainian banks are insolvent, and many more are on their way to the grave, according to the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU). A total of 105 Ukrainian commercial banks are experiencing severe financial difficulties, says NBU Chief Accountant Volodymyr Kravets. As a result, the NBU is cracking down and has created strict new banking regulations.

In January 1994, 227 banks were registered in Ukraine, up from 34 the previous year. But by the end of 1994, 18 commercial banks were in debt, 62 had violated financial regulations and 10 closed down completely. Seventy-nine banks together this month lost close to KBV700 billion which they had loaned to the now-defunct Aleks Bank.

Another 58 commercial banks are in a financial crunch after crediting the ill-fated Help investment company which included about 20 limited liability businesses. The corporation last year received a KBV3 billion credit and later mysteriously disappeared. The names of the creditors of Help corporation have not yet been disclosed.

Last year only 20 Ukrainian banks met NBU requirements for statutory assets. To be officially registered, a commercial bank's statutory assets should equal at least ECU0.5 million plus another ECU1 million in the bank's own assets.

To stop the flurry of unstable banks and bank branches opening with dreams of quick profits, the National Bank of Ukraine passed a resolution March 2 regulating banking.

"The root of the problem lies in the contrast with last year when banks survived as a result of monetary emissions," said one Ukrainian financial analyst requesting anonymity. "This year they (the government) have a more serious attitude to economic laws," he said.

The NBU ordered all insolvent commercial banks to trade their remaining national and hard currency assets by March 10 and use the earnings to refill their correspondent accounts. The NBU prohibited 17 banks from depositing money on their accounts and selling shares. These regulations affect banks that were set up less than three years ago.

Vadym Hetman, head of the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange hails the NBU's new, no-nonsense attitude. "The new regulations on banking are the first step to improving Ukraine's financial environment. The banks that are shutting down are unable to adapt to today's economy," he said. Hetman, a former NBU Governor, opposes artificially supporting insolvent banks. "When I was head of the NBU, the first thing I did was declare Prominvest bank as bankrupt," he said.

The new regulations oblige all commercial banks to accumulate and register their statutory capital in the amount of ECU500,000 by Jan. 1, 1996 and to accumulate their own assets of at least ECU1 million. Insolvent commercial banks will be prohibited from disbursing dividends and accepting money for individual deposits. They will also be barred from issuing bank guarantees and letters of credit and from allocating loans under preferential terms.

The NBU will register businesses that have failed to pay interest or principal on loans taken from a commercial bank as bankrupt. The NBU also placed a ceiling on individual loans issued by commercial banks. The new requirements stipulate individual loan must not exceed 25 per cent of the bank's capital. The resolution also prohibits commercial banks from using borrowed funds for covering operation expenses, financing bank renovation or construction projects, or paying bank employee wages.

New limitations were imposed March 10 on maximum interest rates offered by unprofitable commercial banks, excluding the interest rates charged for loans to other banks. In addition, all commercial banks are required to set up accounting systems to control funds lent by the bank's subsidiaries and keep daily registration log. After April 25, any commercial bank loaning more than KBV1 billion will have to notify the NBU.

Despite the attempts to clean up Ukraine's banks, skeptics remain. Petro Myroshnykov, Banking Advisor to President Leonid Kuchma and Governor of INKO bank, believes new regulations are not the answer. "The resolution proves the NBU thinks it can change the situation by administrative methods," he said. Banks will not be able to normally operate with securities, bonds, promissory notes, and letters of credit, until full-scale reforms are carried out, according to Myroshnykov. Ukrainian banks today only offer traditional banking services, such as lending and depositing.

"The difficulties confronting Ukrainian banks basically stem from the current macroeconomic situation in Ukraine. I believe that as we progress along the path of reforms, these problems will become fewer. We cannot expect the national banking system to improve unless production is revitalized," said Myroshnykov, also head of the 35-member Kyiv Bank Union. As the reforms progress, the spectrum of bank services and incomes will expand, he said.

Trade doubles in 1994

(IntelNews/Biznes)—Ukraine boosted its foreign trade turnover in 1994 to nearly US$18.24 billion — twice as much as the previous year, according to the State Customs Committee annual report.

Ukraine's exports climbed to $7.93 billion from $4.05 billion, while imports increased to $10.3 billion, from $5.59 billion, the committee reported.

Although Ukraine traded with 187 countries, the Commonwealth of Independent States was Ukraine's major trade area, accounting for 59.8 per cent of Ukraine's imports and 55.3 per cent of the country's exports.

European countries, Ukraine's second largest trade region, accounted for 27.7 per cent of Ukraine's imports and 18.4 per cent of its exports.

Russia was Ukraine's largest single trade partner last year, buying 42 per cent of all Ukraine's exports and selling some 47.2 per cent of Ukraine's imports.

Waste, fuel plants proposed

(IntelNews/Unian)—National Academy of Sciences President Borys Paton and former State Nuclear Committee chair Mykhailo Umanets propose to use the US$200 million aid given by the G7 industrial countries to construct two nuclear waste product and fuel processing plants.

The Alliance international consortium, which completed the first stage of a feasibility study for the construction of a new sarcophagus for the ill-fated Chornobyl nuclear power plant's fourth reactor, would construct the plants, according to the Economics Ministry.

Paton and Umanets said the consortium should establish an International Chornobyl Fund financed by foreign governments and international donors.

President Leonid Kuchma ordered the government to review the two officials' suggestions by Apr. 5.

VAT reduced

(IntelNews)—Imported products will become a bit cheaper for Ukrainians during the next three months, thanks to a law passed by Parliament on March 21 The Rada, mulling a complete and permanent overhaul of Ukraine's Value-Added Tax, decided instead to temporarily reduce the VAT from 28 to 20 per cent after Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz and Budget Committee Chairman Mykhailo Azarov complained that the move would greatly increase the budget deficit. The Ukrainian budget will not have enough revenue if we lower the VAT," Azarov said. "We will not have enough money to provide for a 7 per cent budget deficit as demanded by the International Monetary Fund as a condition for obtaining credits," he added, noting that the current budget was computed using a 28 per cent VAT.

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The Ukrainian national Nordic Ski Team

Thunder Bay welcomes Ukrainian Nordic ski team

(UkrNews)—Though illness prevented the Ukrainian National Nordic Ski Team from making any headway on the slopes, they nevertheless enjoyed a tremendous welcome from Thunder Bay's Ukrainian community during the World Nordic Ski Championships held in that city March 9-17.

A total of five receptions were held for them during their stay and the team reacted "very very emotionally", says Michael Sawchuk, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Thunder Bay Branch, and team attache.

"This was the first time they had the Ukrainian community participating (during an international competition)," he added.

Receptions for the athletes were held in local churches as well as in the three Prosvita halls in Thunder Bay — the Port Arthur, Fort William and Vast Fort William Prosvitas (named after the cities that existed prior to their amalgamation into Thunder Bay.

The largest crowd to come to one of these receptions was 200, said Sawchuk.

All three Prosvitas pooled their money to purchase Nordic sweatshirts for each athlete and official. In addition, the Simpson Street Prosvita gave each of the 22 guests of honor a cash donation of two hundred dollars, reported Jennifer Fachert of the Thunder Bay Post.

The money comes with no strings attached, Sawchuk told The Post. "It's for their personal use — things they would like to bay such as souvenirs for their families."

Simpson Street Prosvita board member, Nestor Baranyk told The Post the guests of honor were impressed with the extravagant gifts and commented on the friendliness and superb hospitality they experienced during their visit to Thunder Bay. "They have never had a community recognize them as celebrities of the party," said Baranyk.

But the team arrived only two days prior to the opening of the championships — allowing them little time to prepare.

An additional problem was that both coaches and athletes already had cases of the grippe when they arrived, reported Halyna Nechayeva, a correspondent from the Ukrainian newspaper Sportyvna Hazeta, who accompanied the team to the shores of Lake Superior.

For many, the illness just got worse. Thus, team leader Iryna Taranenko, who was sick during the championships, managed only a 26th-place finish in the 10-km classic. Other team members fared even worse.

Ukraine third in hockey championships

Ukraine finished in third place during the World Championships Pool C Group one (senior) hockey tournament which ended March 26 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The goal differential between Kazakhstan and Ukraine in losses to Belarus proved to be the difference in the playoffs between the first-place finishers of the preliminary round.

Ukraine fell 3-1 to Belarus March 25 and tied Kazakhstan 2-2 March 24, leaving the blue-and-yellow squad to watch from the sidelines as the other two ex-nuclear powers decided the contest on the final day.

Kazakhstan's Sergei Antipov opened the scoring at 6.21 of the first period, but Belarusyn Andrei Kovaliov tied the game less than two minutes later.

Both teams played through a scoreless second period and most of the third until Kovaliov scored his second of the day with 27 seconds left in the game.

Belarus scored first in their game with Ukraine with Alexander Andreevski popping in the marker at 2:29 of the first period.

Vasilii Pankov made it 2-0 at 18:09, but Ukraine's Alexander Savytsky answered just 16 seconds later.

Pankov made it 3-1 at 1:05 of the second and Belarus held on to make make that result final.

In the game against Kazakhstan, the teams played through a scoreless first period, then Alexander Filipov put Kazakhstan ahead 1-0 at 3:19 of the second.

That lead was short-lived as Vitaliy Lytvynenko tied it up for Ukraine 36 seconds later.

Kazakhstan regained the lead when Andrei Pchelyakov netted a goal with only 27 seconds left in the second, but Vadym Chakariochuk tied it up again at 17:43 of the third.

Ukraine easily won the preliminary matches by clobbering Hungary 9-1 and Yugoslavia 15-3

Chakariochuk, Lytvynenko, Valent Oletsky, Anatoliy Naida, Vadym Kulabuhov and Andrei Nikolaev each scored two goals in the game against Yugoslavia, while Ramil Yuldashev, Mihail Fadeev and Valeri Shiryaev notched singles.

Yuldashev led the way against Hungary with a hat trick. The other scorers were Nikolaev, Chakariochuk, Fadeev, Anatoliy Stepanytsky, Vasyl Borovnikov and Viktor Honcharenko.

Belarus was promoted to the B Pool while Ukraine remains in the C.

Ukraine's junior team, however, is assured of a spot in the A Pool by virtue of the expansion of the top level for next year's tournament and Ukraine's participation in this year's.

Final Standings

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
1st group							
Belarus	2	2	0	0	5	2	4
Kazakhstan	2	0	1	1	3	4	2
Ukraine	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**5**	**2**
2nd group							
Estonia	2	2	0	0	15	7	4
China	2	1	1	0	9	12	2
Hungary	2	0	2	0	5	10	0
3rd group							
Slovenia	2	2	0	0	21	4	4
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	9	7	2
Bulgaria	2	0	2	0	1	20	0

Belarus qualified for Pool B. Bulgaria and Yugoslavia dropped down to Pool C group two

Ukrainian knocked out for title

Ukrainian Oleksandr Hurov lost his light-heavyweight European Boxing Union title when he was knocked out by Frenchman Patrice Aouissi in the third round.

Hurov dominated the first round of the match, held in Levallois Perret, France, March 14.

But, despite bleeding from a cut above the eye, Aouissi reacted with a series of powerful hooks in the second. A vicious right halfway through the third round sent Hurov to the canvas.

Hurov won the championship in January when he knocked out Norbert Ekassi, also from France.

Sports

Croatia blanks Ukraine

Croatia blanked Ukraine 4-0 in a Group Four 1996 European Championship preliminary round game played in Zagreb, March 25.

The loss leaves Ukraine in fourth place in the six-team Group Four which also includes Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia and Estonia. Only the top two teams qualify for the 16-team tournament to be held next year.

Zvonimir Boban put Croatia ahead in the 13th minute, Davor Suker scored in the 21st, Robert Prosinecki scored in the 70th minute and Suker got his second goal of the round in the 76th.

That same day, Croatia also beat Ukraine in the under-21 match also held in Zagreb. The score was 1-0.

Ukraine's next Group Four match is against second-place Italy.

Standings as of March 25

Top Two Teams Qualify

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Croatia	4	0	0	10	1	12
Italy	2	1	1	8	4	7
Lithuania	2	1	0	4	3	6
Ukraine	**1**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**6**	**4**
Slovenia	0	0	2	2	3	2
Estonia	0	4	0	1	11	0

Three points are awarded for a win. One point for ties.

Sampras bests Medvedev

Ukrainian Andriy Medvedev gave top-seeded Pete Sampras a run for his money in the quarterfinals of the $4.1 million Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne, Florida, March 24, but ending up losing to the two-year reigning champion.

Sampras pulled off a 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4 victory after losing the third round.

"I told him at the net that he probably should have beaten me," Sampras said of Medvedev. "He probably should have closed me out there" (in the third).

The enthusiastic capacity crowd rose to their feet cheering for the top-ranked Sampras and the 14th-ranked Medvedev when the match concluded after two hours, reports Reuters.

"I thought the tennis today was a very high level," Sampras said. "We both played pretty well and I obviously got off to a great start and got a break in the second. I just started rushing things and Andrei started to play a lot better."

Both players took big chances during the match which accounted for Sampras having 38 unforced errors and Medvedev 33. The real difference was in the number of winners — Sampras had an impressive 53 to Medvedev's 19.

In the second-set tiebreaker, Medvedev won four of the last five points. On his second set point, the 12th point of the tiebreaker, Medvedev hit a winning backhand approach shot to send the match into a deciding set.

Sampras lost his serve in the third and seventh games of the third set. But he recouped both breaks and then broke Medvedev's serve at 30-40 in the final game when the Ukrainian smacked a backhand wide.

Medvedev reached the quarterfinals by defeating Patrick McEnroe of the United States, 6- 4, 7-6 (8-6).

Meanwhile the team of Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine and Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria were defeated by Larisa Neiland, Latvia, and Meredith McGrath of the United States in the women's doubles quarterfinals.

Sports Briefs

Bodnar inducted into Hall

(WCU Sports Commission)—Hockey great Gus Bodnar was named for induction into the Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame. Bodnar played in the NHL for 12 seasons and was a member of two Stanley Cup winning teams. He was the league's rookie of the year in 1944. Upon retirement as a player, Gus Bodnar took up coaching. Amongst other, he coached the junior Oshawa Generals for six years. The induction will occur on May 31.

Leafs honour Bower, Broda

(WCUSC)—Hockey legends Johnny Bower and Walter "Turk" Broda were honoured by the Toronto Maple Leafs with the raising of banners commemorating the No. 1 both goaltenders wore. Both athletes had distinguished careers with the Leafs. Broda helped the club win five Stanley Cup championships while Bower four. both twice won the Vezina Trophy, emblematic of the top goaltender in the NHL. They have also been inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Hardabura shares bronze

(WCUSC)—Jason Hardabura of Oakville, was a member of Canada's bronze medal team in the gymnastics team competition at the 1995 Pan-American Games held at Mar Del Plata, Argentina.

Burtnyk wins title

(WCUSC)—Kerry Burtnyk of Winnipeg won the 1995 Canadian Curling Championships at Halifax. It was Burtnyk's second national title and victory occurred in the same rink where he won his first. In 1981, as a 22 year old, Burtnyk entered the history books as the youngest winner of the event.

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Ukraine to stay collectivized, official predicts

(IntelNews/Unian)—Ukraine's farms are likely to stay collectively owned for the foreseeable future, a senior government official says.

"Private land ownership will not affect agriculture," said Pavlo Haydutskiy, head of the State Committee on Land Resources. "We predict that not more than 10 per cent of the land will be owned privately. Most likely, the actual figure will be 2 to 3 per cent."

In a few years, large collective farms will co-exist with individual farms, which will promote "efficient competition" in the agricultural sector, he said.

"In the near future, a hectare of land in Ukraine will cost US$3,500 to $4,000. That corresponds to the average cost of land in other European countries," he said.

A decree issued by President Leonid Kuchma last November was intended to accelerate land reform by allowing private citizens to own up to 100 hectares of land.

Land reform, however, will be implemented primarily by means other than private ownership — including land sharing and rental through a new certificate scheme, Haydutskiy said.

Although the decree delineated the right to own land, state officials plan to keep farmland in collective possession instead of transferring it to private ownership.

He also said collective farms could be financed from the state budget.

"We are doing everything possible to keep agricultural structures — former collective and state farms — that work effectively," Haydutskiy said.

Statistics Ministry data, however, shows that private farms were more efficient last year than collective farms. Although private farms made up only 1.6 per cent of the total land available for farming, they produced 40 per cent of Ukraine's milk, 42 per cent of its meat and 54 per cent of its eggs.

Aid for radiation victims authorized

(IntelNews/Unian)—The Ukrainian government issued a resolution March 14 authorizing the Dnipropetrovsk executive committee, along with the Economics Ministry, Finance Ministry, Ecological Ministry and State Nuclear Committee, to work out a state program on social protection for the radiation-stricken residents of Zhovti Vody.

Zhovti Vody, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, has significant amounts of radiation emanating from its uranium mines and processing enterprises. According to the Cabinet, substandard uranium extraction methods in the 1950s have resulted in radiation levels in the region being twice as high as internationals standards.

The program's KBV110 billion annual budget will be spent on cleanup operations, land re-cultivation, erection of a rehabilitation centre and monthly payments for Zhovti Vody residents.

The financing of the program will start in 1996 from the local budget, but city enterprises and other organizations will pay lower state taxes to help cover the program's costs.

Moroz slammed for speech to Communists

(IntelNews)—The political fallout from the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) Congress spread to Parliament March 14 as national-democrats lambasted Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz for a speech he delivered to the group.

As a result, Parliament voted overwhelmingly (202-20) to order that Moroz's March 12 speech to the Communists be televised in full. Rukh faction leader Viacheslav Chornovil, speaking in Parliament, criticized the Speaker for delivering "his speech to the CPU congress, where slogans against the Ukrainian state and against our President and his policy were announced."

"When Moroz became parliamentary Speaker, he promised to quit his post as the head of the Socialist Party, but he has not done this," Chornovil said.

Moroz, in his defense, said that while he had participated in the CPU Congress, he also participated in the Third Rukh Congress.

Nationalist concern was aroused after the Communist Party Congress approved resolutions calling for official status for the Russian language in Ukraine, and for closer ties with Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Liberals call for coalition

(IntelNews)—Leaders of the Liberal Party of Ukraine have accused the current Ukrainian government and Parliament of being incapable of leading Ukraine out of its economic crisis and called for the creation of a coalition government to implement President Leonid Kuchma's economic program effectively. The old totalitarian system still exists," said party member Volodymyr Lanovy, who also heads the Centre for Market Reform. "Contradiction between the executive power and the legislature will sharpen soon."

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ПАЧКА PARCEL16

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2. Риж - Rice	11.0 lbs	5.0 kg
3. Цукор - Sugar	11.0 lbs	5.0 kg
4. Гречана крупа - Buckwheat	11.0 lbs	5.0 kg
5. Манна каша - Oatmeal	11.0 lbs	5.0 kg
6. Вівсяна крупа - Oatmeal	11.0 lbs	5.0 kg
7. Макарони - Spaghetti	2.2 lbs	.1.0 kg
8. Олія - Oil	0.53 gal	2.0 L
9. Смалець - Lard	2.2 lbs	1.0 kg
10. М'ясні консерви - Canned meat	1.32 lbs	0.6 kg
Ціна/Price: $57	(72 lbs)	32.6 kg

ПАЧКА PARCEL18

1. Мука - Flour	110 lbs	50 kg
2. Риж - Rice	55 lbs	25 kg
3. Гречана крупа - Buckwheat	44 lbs	20 kg
4. Цукор - Sugar	33 lbs	15 kg
5. Манна каша - Oatmeal	22 lbs	10 kg
6. Олія - Oil	1.3 gal	5.0 L
7. Маргарин - Margarine	4.4 lbs	2.0 kg
8. М'ясні вироби - Smoked meat	11.0 lbs	5.0 kg
Ціна/Price: $178	(290 lbs)	132.6 kg

ПАЧКА PARCEL17

1. Мука - Flour	55 lbs	25 kg
2. Цукор - Sugar	55 lbs	25 kg
3. Гречана крупа - Buckwheat	55 lbs	25 kg
4. Риж - Rice	55 lbs	25 kg
5. Олія - Oil	1.3 gal	5.0 L
6. Смалець - Lard	2.2 lbs	1.0 kg
7. М'ясні вироби - Smoked meat	4.4 lbs	2.0 kg
Ціна/Price: $169	(240 lbs)	109.0 kg

ПАЧКА PARCEL15

1. Мука - Flour	6.6. lbs	3.0 kg
2. Цукор - Sugar	6.6 lbs	3.0 kg
3. Риж - Rice	6.6 lbs	3.0 kg
4. Гречана крупа - Buckwheat	6.6 lbs	3.0 kg
5. Вівсяна крупа - Oatmeal	6.6 lbs	3.0 kg
6. Макарони - Spaghetti	2.2 lbs	1.0 kg
7. Олія - Oil	0.26 gal	1.0 L
8. Смалець - Lard	2.2 lbs	1.0 kg
9. Масло вершкове - Butter	1.1 lbs	0.5 kg
10. Сир твердий - Cheddar cheese	1.32 lbs	0.6 kg
11. Сухе молоко - Powder milk	2.2 lbs	1.0 kg
12. М'ясні консерви - Canned meat	2.0 lbs	0.9 kg
13. Ковбаса - Salami	2.2 lbs	1.0 kg
14. Мелена кава - Ground coffee	0.55 lbs	0.25 kg
15. Чай в пакетах - Tea bags	80 bags	
16. Солодощі - Sweets	2.2 lbs	1.0 kg
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